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END OF THE YEAR THEME: "MAGIE DE NOEL 2014"

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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, September 17, 2014



Mission Creep Feared

Top General: US Ground Troops Possible in Iraq

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the threat of the Islamic State, on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Sept. 16, 2014. Dempsey told Congress Tuesday he would recommend deploying limited special operations of U.S. forces to combat Islamic extremists if airstrikes were not successful.

(New York Times)

DAVID ESPO
DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP)

— American ground troops may be needed to battle Islamic State forces in the Middle East if President Barack Obama's current strategy fails, the top U.S. military officer said Tuesday as Congress plunged into an election-year debate of Obama's plan to expand airstrikes and train Syrian rebels.

"To be clear, if we reach

the point where I believe our advisers should accompany Iraqi troops on attacks against specific ISIL targets, I will recommend that to the president," Army Gen. Martin Dempsey declared in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee, referring to the militants by an alternative name.

Pressed later by Sen. Carl Levin, a Democrat and the panel's chairman, the four-star general said if Obama's current ap-

proach isn't enough to prevail, he might "go back to the president and make a recommendation that may include the use of ground forces." Obama has maintained repeatedly that American forces will not have a renewed ground combat mission in Iraq in this new phase of a long war against terrorists.

Tuesday's remarks by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff drew a prompt, polite rebuttal from the White House. Obama "will

not deploy ground troops in a combat role into Iraq or Syria," said spokesman Josh Earnest.

Dempsey's testimony underscored the dilemma confronting many lawmakers as the House moves through its own debate on authorizing the Pentagon to implement the policy Obama announced last week. In Iraq on Tuesday, the U.S. continued its expanded military campaign, carrying out two airstrikes northwest of Irbil and

three southwest of Baghdad. French warplanes flying from the United Arab Emirates began reconnaissance missions over the country.

Democrats in Washington spoke of a fear that the United State might inevitably become dragged into yet another ground war on the heels of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Continued on page 3

Mexico airlifts tourists after Hurricane Odile

ALBA MORA ROCA

Associated Press

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico

(AP) — The Mexican government began airlifting the first of thousands of stranded tourists out of the hurricane-ravaged resort area of Los Cabos on Tuesday, as residents picked up the pieces of shattered, flooded homes.

The Interior Ministry said military and commercial planes were carrying travelers out through the Los Cabos international airport, which remained closed to commercial flights due to damage suffered when Hurricane Odile tore through the area late Sunday and Monday. Travelers were being flown free of charge to airports in Tijuana, Mazatlan, Guadalajara and Mexico City to catch connecting flights and, in the case of foreigners, receive consular assistance.

Fatai Oshi-Ojuri, a tourist from Oakland, California, was spending a long weekend in Mexico to celebrate his 30th birthday when Hurricane Odile roared on shore.

"It's been an interesting experience to say the least," Oshi-Ojuri said by phone from Mazatlan, where he was waiting for an Alaska Airlines flight to Los Angeles.

On Tuesday he was one of the first to get out on a Federal Police jet. He said the airport in Baja was a mess: roof panels and electrical wiring down, signs and windows shattered, and full of water.

"That was like a scene from 'The Walking Dead,'" Oshi-Ojuri said.

Thousands in the state of Baja California Sur remained without electricity, water or phone service. A boat was on its way with humanitarian aid, and authorities were working to restore utilities.

President Enrique Pena Nieto was scheduled to tour the area later, after presiding over an independence day military parade in the capital.

Downgraded to a tropi-

cal storm, Odile continued to soak parts of the Baja California Peninsula, and forecasters said it was still capable of unleashing dangerous flash floods and mudslides.

In Los Cabos, Enrique Cota

wept as he stood in murky, ankle-deep water and surveyed the destruction at his home. On the kitchen wall, a muddy mark nearly waist-high showed how deep the floodwaters got.

"We'll have to start over,

little by little," Cota said, "because the stove, the refrigerator, the television, the kid's computer — it's all ruined."

He rode out Odile's landfall in a shelter with firefighters, and said he hadn't slept for

two days.

Homes, stores and resorts along Los Cabos' famed hotel row all suffered severe damage, with room windows shattered, facades crumbled and lobbies full of debris. □



Tourist Carl Hassler from California looks at debris and damaged furniture at the entrance of the Hilton hotel after it sustained severe damage caused by Hurricane Odile in Los Cabos, Mexico. Hurricane Odile blazed a trail of destruction through Mexico's Baja California Peninsula that leveled everything from ramshackle homes to big box stores and luxury hotels, leaving roads and entire neighborhoods as disaster zones.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

Survey finds skepticism about trade's benefits

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—

Americans, Japanese and many Europeans aren't sold on the benefits of trade. They doubt that global economic ties create jobs or raise wages, an international survey conducted by the Pew Research Center shows.

But people China and other low- and middle-income countries are far more convinced that trade delivers jobs and higher wages, Pew said Tuesday in releasing the results of its survey of 48,643 people in 44 countries. The center found that 50 percent of Americans say trade destroys jobs, while just 20 percent say it creates them. Only Italians — 59 percent of whom see trade as a job killer — have a more negative view. The

French and Japanese are also far more likely to view trade as a job destroyer than as a job creator.

Similarly, Americans are far more likely (45 percent to 17 percent) to say trade reduces wages, instead of raising them. The French, Italians, Japanese and Greeks agree.

In China, 67 percent say trade creates jobs, and 61 percent say it raises wages. People in most emerging-market countries, from Vietnam to Tunisia, share that positive view of trade.

China's support for trade isn't surprising considering that "wages in China have been growing 10 percent per year on average for a decade while exports have been growing by 15 percent per year," said Bruce Stokes, director of Pew's

studies of global economic attitudes.

The United States, by contrast, has lost millions of manufacturing jobs over the past two decades and has endured "stagnating and declining wages for a generation," Stokes said. Indeed, an academic report published last month by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that trade competition with China had cost the United States more than 2 million jobs from 1999 to 2011.

Americans' skeptical view of globalization "makes all the sense in the world," Stokes said.

Around the world, people also have ambivalent feelings about foreign investment: They tend to support foreign companies building factories in their countries,

but they are far less enthusiastic about foreign companies buying local firms: 67 percent of Americans, 76 percent of Japanese, 79 percent of Germans and 50 percent of Chinese take a dim view of foreigners buying local companies.

The doubts about trade in advanced economies could make it harder for the United States to negotiate ambitious trade agreements in Asia and Europe, Pew said.

The U.S. government, arguing that expanded trade creates jobs and stimulates economic growth, is negotiating a major free trade agreement with Japan and 10 other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is also working on another trade deal with the 28-country Europe Union. □

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Top General: US Ground Troops Possible in Iraq

Continued from Front

"We must ... ask ourselves if we can truly 'vet' these rebel groups beyond their known affiliations, and ensure we are not arming the next extremist threat to the region and the world," said Rep. Pete Visclosky, a Democrat.

Republicans said they worried that Obama was responding tepidly to the current threat by terrorists who have overrun large sections of Iraq and Syria and beheaded two American journalists. "If it's important enough to fight, it's important enough to win," said Rep. Jack Kingston, a Republican and one of the first lawmakers to address the subject in several hours of scheduled debate.

A vote was expected in the House on Wednesday, and in the Senate within days. In the Senate, Republican leader Mitch McConnell announced he would support the measure and Democratic leader Harry Reid predicted bipartisan approval. The timetable was remarkably rapid by congressional standards, the result of a strong desire by lawmakers in both parties to adjourn quickly and return home to campaign for re-election in November.

Only seven weeks before voters go to the polls, most Republicans had little stomach to oppose Obama on a matter of national security, particularly when polls suggest he has the support of large segments of the public. As a result, the likelihood was that Congress would swing behind his request, and then return for a fuller debate of his war strategy in a postelection session of Congress.

"I think there's a lot more that we need to be doing, but there's no reason for us not to do what the president asked us to do,"

said Speaker John Boehner, the leader of House Republicans.

The legislation also drew support from Sen. Levin,

an influential voice among Democrats on military matters. He is retiring, but fellow Democrat Jeanne Shaheen, who is in a difficult re-

election race, said she intended to back Obama's request. Even so, she added it "would be a mistake" for Congress not to debate the issue in depth in the future.

Dempsey and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel fielded questions as Obama met in the Oval Office with retired Marine Gen. John Allen, who is coordinating international efforts to combat the Islamic State militants.

Sen. John McCain, a Republican, seemed incredulous, saying the United States evidently intended to train Syrian rebels without anticipating they would be attacked from the air by forces loyal to President Bashar Assad, whom they are sworn to drive from power.

He asked how U.S. forces would respond in the event Assad's air force bombed the U.S.-trained forces. "We will help them, and we will support them," Hagel eventually said. □



Members of the activist group CodePink gather for a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first in a series of high-profile Capitol Hill hearings that will measure the President's ability to rally congressional support for President Barack Obama's strategy to combat Islamic State extremists in Iraq and Syria, in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

US poverty rate drops for first time since 2006

JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The poverty rate in the United States has dropped for the first time since 2006, bringing a bit of encouraging news about the nation's economy as President Barack Obama and Congress gear up for the November elections.

The U.S. Census Bureau, in its annual look at poverty in the United States, said that the poverty rate in 2013 was 14.5 percent, down from 15 percent in 2012. The decrease in the poverty rate was attributed to the growth in year-round employment by 2.8 million jobs in the United States,

government officials said. White House officials cheered the positive information in the census release.

"There is reason to believe that this progress has continued into 2014, as the labor market has strengthened and millions have gained health insurance coverage," said Jason Furman and Betsey Stevenson, members of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. "At the same time, the data also offer a clear illustration of the large amount of work that remains to strengthen the middle class in the wake of the worst recession since the Great Depression."

The median household income for families was \$65,587 in 2013, and \$31,178 nonfamily households, which also was not statistically different from the 2012 levels. However, census officials said that income is 8 percent less than it was in 2007, the year before the United States entered the recession.

Officials also say that the number of children under 18 in poverty declined from the previous year for the first time since 2000.

The number of children in poverty dropped from 21.8 percent in 2012 to 19.9 percent in 2013, and the number of children in poverty also declined from 16.1 mil-

lion to 14.7 million.

The official poverty level is based on a government calculation that includes only income before tax deductions. It excludes capital gains or accumulated wealth, such as home ownership. As a result, the rate takes into account the effects of some government benefits, such as unemployment compensation. It does not factor in noncash government aid such as tax credits and food stamps.

Officials also said the percentage of people without health insurance coverage for the entire 2013 calendar year was 13.4 percent, which equaled 42 million people. □

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Obama: Ebola outbreak a threat to global security



President Barack Obama announces an expanded effort to address the West African Ebola outbreak during a visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in Atlanta, Sept. 16, 2014. The Department of Defense will open a base in Monrovia, Liberia to coordinate international efforts, and help construct additional Ebola treatment facilities.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — President Barack Obama called the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a threat to world security on Tuesday and broadly expanded the U.S. response by ordering thousands of troops to the region along with an aggressive effort to train health care workers and build treatment centers. He called on other countries to quickly supply more helpers, supplies and money. "If the outbreak is not stopped now, we could be looking at hundreds of thousands of people affected, with profound economic, political and security implications for all of us," Obama declared after briefings at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Obama acted under pressure from regional leaders and international aid organizations who pleaded for a heightened U.S. role in confronting the deadly virus, especially in the hardest-hit countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. At least 2,400 people have died, with Liberia bearing the brunt.

The president described people dying in the streets and health care systems near collapse from this latest outbreak.

"In West Africa, Ebola is now an epidemic," Obama said. "It's spiraling out of control, it is getting worse." At the same time, he offered assurances that the chances of an outbreak in the U.S. are "extremely low."

The stepped-up U.S. response includes sending 3,000 troops to the region, including medics and corpsmen for treatment

and training, engineers to help build treatment facilities and logistics specialists to assist in patient transportation. Troops would not provide direct care to Ebola patients, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

A substantial number will be stationed at an intermediate base in Senegal, with others at locations in Liberia, he said.

Obama also announced that Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams, head of U.S. Army Africa, will head a military command center based in Liberia.

The announcement came the same day the World Health Organization warned that the number of West African Ebola cases could begin doubling every three weeks and that the crisis could end up costing nearly \$1 billion to contain.

Joanne Liu, president of Doctors Without Borders, said the global response was falling short. "The window of opportunity to contain this outbreak is closing," Liu told a meeting Tuesday at the United Nations in Geneva.

Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the WHO, welcomed Obama's announcement, calling the U.S. offer "precisely the kind of transformational change we need to get a grip on the outbreak and begin to turn it around."

Nearly 5,000 people have become ill from Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal since it was first recognized in March. WHO says it anticipates the figure could rise to more than 20,000.

Obama described task ahead as "daunting" but said what gives him hope is that "the world knows how to fight this disease." □

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Racing wildfire engulfs homes in California town



Marin County engineer Scott Gamba, from left, firefighters John Ike and Travis Himdmarch check for hot spots Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Weed, Calif., after the Boles Fire tore through the area, destroying more than 100 buildings.

(AP Photo/Greg Barnette)

JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press

WEED, California (AP) — Fire crews aided by calmer winds and aircraft knocked down a wildfire Tuesday that damaged or destroyed 100 homes and a church and forced more than 1,000 people to flee a small town. Two other fires, one near Yosemite National Park in

central California and another east of Sacramento, also led hundreds of people to evacuate their homes. In Weed, as crews put out remaining embers, residents wandered through scorched neighborhoods covered in pink fire retardant had been dropped by firefighting airplanes. Some homes were burned

to the ground, with only chimneys left standing. Broken water pipes spurted over the blackened landscape. The remnants of the Holy Family Catholic Church were still smoking, marked by twisted metal girders lying on the ground. The fast-moving blaze, which began Monday, was among nearly a dozen wildfires burning in California that have been exacerbated by the state's third straight year of drought. The tinder-dry conditions have sent firefighters scrambling from blaze to blaze, almost nonstop. Fire crews had a handle on the 375-acre (150-hectare) fire Tuesday morning after it showed little growth overnight. It was 20 percent contained. □

Ferguson: Judge extends grand jury

JIM SALTER
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A judge has extended the term of the grand jury considering whether a white suburban St. Louis police officer should be charged in the shooting death of a black 18-year-old. As expected, the grand jury investigation into the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson has gone past the panel's four-month term, which was to expire on Sept. 10. St. Louis County Circuit Judge Carolyn Whittington that day granted an extension until January — the longest allowed by Missouri law. The extension does not mean the grand jury will meet until January but "just gives them that window," said St. Louis County Court

Administrator Paul Fox. He noted grand jury is focused strictly on the shooting death of Brown by Darren Wilson and is not considering any other cases. Prosecutor Bob McCulloch has said previously that the investigation is expected to last into mid-October. A spokesman for McCulloch was out of the office this week and didn't respond to calls from The Associated Press seeking an update on the status of the investigation. Brown was fatally shot Aug. 9 after a confrontation that began when Wilson asked Brown and a friend to walk on the sidewalk instead of the street. Police have said that Brown and Wilson became involved in a confrontation inside Wilson's squad car. □

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GM to add 750 workers to build small pickup trucks

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Early demand is so high for General Motors' new small pickup trucks that the company is hiring more workers to build them even before one is sold to the public.

Nearly 100,000 prospective buyers have gone on-line to customize a Chevrolet Colorado or a GMC Canyon pickup and get a price. That, and 30,000 advance orders from dealers, is a sign of strong demand, GM said Tuesday.

GM plans to add 750 workers around March to staff a third shift at its plant in Wentzville, Mo., west of St. Louis. The factory already employs 2,600 people who build the Colorado and Canyon as well as the Chevrolet Express and GMC Savana full-size vans. Strong sales would justify GM's gamble on a diminished part of the market.

In the 1990s, Americans bought more than 1 million small pickups every year, attracted by their lower prices, reasonable gas mileage and ability to haul light loads. Then the bigger

pickups, such as the Ford F-150, caught up in fuel economy. Last year, Americans bought only 227,000 small trucks, 14 percent fewer than in 2012. Sales are down 3 percent more so far this year.



General Motors employees work on a van assembly line at the company's plant in Wentzville, Mo. Early demand is so high for General Motors' new small pickup trucks that the company is adding 750 workers to staff a third shift at the Wentzville plant to build them even before they're shipped to dealers.

GM stopped selling the Colorado and Canyon in 2012, and Ford halted sales of its Ranger small pickup in 2011. Currently the only two competitors are the Toyota Tacoma and Nissan

Frontier with older models. In reviving the pickups, GM is aiming the Colorado at outdoorsy buyers on the coast, while the Canyon targets a more upscale clientele. The company said 97,000 people have built

through the process to configure and price," said Alan Batey, GM's North America president. The interest justifies hiring the new workers, he added.

Jesse Toprak, senior analyst for the Cars.com auto

business confidence are at the highest since the Great Recession, and that normally translates to bigger truck sales, he said.

The smaller trucks have wide appeal, Toprak said. People in rural areas who don't need to haul heavy loads like them, and drivers and businesses in big cities buy them because of their maneuverability and gas mileage, he said.

GM says the Colorado will start around \$21,000. The Canyon will cost more. Trucks with a V6 engine will get an estimated 26 miles per gallon on the highway. The four-cylinder gas mileage hasn't been announced, but it's expected to be around 30 mpg highway. Chevrolet's full-size truck, the Silverado, gets up to 24 mpg on the highway. The new workers at the Wentzville plant should earn around \$16 per hour to start, less than the \$28 per hour earned by longtime factory employees. GM already has added about 1,300 jobs and invested \$513 million at Wentzville to build the new trucks. □



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American Airlines agents approve union

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Customer-service agents at American Airlines voted overwhelmingly for union representation, reversing a narrow defeat for organized labor less than two years ago.

The results affect about 14,000 employees of American and US Airways at airports and reservations centers plus home-based reservations agents.

The airline business is among the most heavily unionized industries in the U.S. economy. Pilots, flight attendants and mechanics at American and US Airways have long been represented by unions, making American's service agents a notable exception — until now.

The National Mediation Board, a federal agency that oversees union elections, said Tuesday that 86 percent of service agents voting favored representation by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the Teamsters. The CWA lost a previous election at American in January 2013 by about 150 votes, or 51 percent to 49 percent. CWA President Larry Cohen said labor won because, unlike the last election, American's management did not campaign against the union. American and US Airways merged in December, and the new company is run by the former leaders of US Airways, where the service agents had been represented by

unions for more than a decade.

"When it is left to the employees, they would rather be engaged than apathetic," Cohen said in an interview. "They would rather have a voice."

American Airlines Group Inc. spokesman Paul Flanagan said that the company would work to reach new collective bargaining agreements covering both American and US Airways employees.

"We have enjoyed a productive relationship with the (CWA-Teamsters) as well as our other unions and look forward to continuing our work together," he said in a written statement. The mediation board said that 13,962 workers were eligible to vote. Of those, 9,640 voted for union representation and 1,547 voted against it.

About 9,000 of the eligible employees work at American and the rest at US Airways. The parent company, the world's largest airline operator, plans to convert all US Airways planes and people to the American Airlines brand.

Negotiations on a contract covering the agents' wages and other items are expected to begin this fall.

Separately, the mediation board on Tuesday approved the Allied Pilots Association as the union representing pilots at both airlines. That group had represented American Airlines pilots and was much larger than the union at US Airways. □

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US Financial Front:

New Jersey loses 4th casino as Trump Plaza closes

WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey
(AP) — The supervisor drew his finger in a slashing motion moments after the final hand of blackjack had been dealt at Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino. And with that, gambling was done.

The 30-year-old casino at the heart of the Boardwalk shut its doors at 6 a.m. Tuesday, becoming the fourth Atlantic City casino to close this year. Beseet by crushing debt, fleeing customers and run-down facilities, Trump Plaza had been the town's worst-performing casino for years. This year, it has won about the same amount from gamblers that the Borgata takes in every two weeks. And at pennies on the dollar, no one wanted to buy it.

Trump Plaza thus became the latest victim of casino contraction brought on by competition in neighboring states in the saturated northeastern U.S. gambling market. Atlantic City began the year with 12 casinos; it now has eight. The Atlantic Club, Showboat and Revel also closed, and the Taj Mahal could be next on Nov. 13. Yomari Blanco, a housekeeper at Trump Plaza for 18 years, plans to file for unemployment this week, and may go back to school. "It's really hitting me," she said. "You realize the reality that's coming right at you."

Theresa Volpe, a cocktail server at the Plaza for 26 years, is looking for a new job — along with about 8,000 others suddenly cut loose by Atlantic City's casinos since January. An unemployment assistance session will be held Wednesday at Boardwalk Hall.

"I don't know if we're going to have a difficult time because of our age," she said. "Someone in their 50s is not necessarily what they want. Friends have been on interviews and they never get called back."

Dealer Ruth Hardrick worked at Trump Plaza for 26 of its 30 years. She, too, is jobless. "You think something will come along (to save the casino)," she said. "And it didn't."

Donald Trump said in a message posted to his official Twitter account Tuesday that he "may buy back in" to save Trump Plaza and the Taj Mahal.

"I left Atlantic City years ago, good timing. Now I may buy back in, at much lower price, to save Plaza & Taj," read the tweet.

Trump didn't immediately return a call seeking clarification of what he is planning to do. He owns a 9 percent stake in Trump Entertainment Resorts and went to court last month to try to get his name removed from the properties.

Trump Plaza had its heyday in the '80s and early '90s. Bedazzled with chandeliers, it hosted many a star-studded after-party when a big event like a Rolling Stones concert or a Mike Tyson prize fight was held next door at Boardwalk Hall. The casino even had a cameo in the film "Ocean's Eleven;" when George Clooney and Brad Pitt recruited actor Bernie Mac's character to help with a Las Vegas casino heist, they plucked him from Trump Plaza, where he was

a dealer. Unlike Revel, which opened just over two years ago and was considered new and luxurious before closing, or the still-profitable Showboat, shuttered by its owner in the name of reducing competition for the remaining casinos in town, the demise of Trump Plaza could be seen a long way off.



A worker posts closed signs on the lobby doors at Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino early Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, in Atlantic City, N.J. The hotel and casino closed its doors early Tuesday, the fourth Atlantic City casino to go belly-up so far this year. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

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US tobacco growers brace for tougher competition

TAMARA LUSH
MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
Associated Press
DANVILLE, Virginia (AP) — Starting next month, America's remaining tobacco growers will be totally exposed to the laws of supply and demand. The very last buyout checks, totaling about \$916.5 million, go out in October to about 425,000

growers for surrendering their quotas. Growers got another \$5 billion from the companies as part of their 1998 settlement of state lawsuits over smoking-related health care costs. When the last checks are cashed, surviving growers will be on their own, forced to find profits in a tremendously competitive global

market. Nearly 50 percent of some kinds of U.S. tobacco is exported to countries where consumption is declining less sharply. U.S. shipment volumes fell nearly 3 percent to 285 billion cigarettes last year, while global volumes fell slightly more than 1 percent to more than 5.71 trillion cigarettes, according to market re-

searcher Euromonitor International. But the U.S. tobacco crop is still worth about \$1.5 billion, the same as a decade ago, and production is stable, growing less than 2 percent over the last five years. "The people who can hang on can make a substantial living," said Harry Lea, a leaf dealer and tobacco warehouse owner in Danville, a one-

erally rural town. Continuing a 3 percent to 4 percent decline in U.S. cigarette sales. Only 18 percent of U.S. adults now smoke, down from 42 percent in 1964, when the U.S. surgeon general's historic report linked smoking with cancer. While local economies suffer across America's tobacco country, cigarette makers remain profitable. They are competing for a dwindling market, but getting higher prices with lower production costs, using newer, high-speed manufacturing equipment.

Making a pack of 20 cigarettes costs about 27 cents, and they sell for an average of \$5.80. Even after taxes, there's plenty of profit to be had.

Consolidation also is aligning costs with demand. Reynolds American Inc. promises \$800 million in savings through its proposed \$25 billion merger with Lorillard Inc. The deal would create a formidable No. 2 U.S. tobacco company behind Altria Group Inc., which owns Philip Morris USA, maker of the top-selling Marlboro brand.

U.K.'s Imperial Tobacco would become No. 3, buying Lorillard's Greensboro, North Carolina, factory and some of the combined company's brands. But Reynolds and Altria would form a duopoly, together commanding 85 percent of the U.S. cigarette market. That could leave growers with fewer outlets to sell to, and an anti-trust review is pending.

Virginia tobacco is still in demand and maybe always will be. Tobacco companies prize the "bright leaf" grown on Virginia's nutrient-rich Old Belt, which produces a mild, light and aromatic taste when smoked. □



Farm workers, from left, Carlos Sanchez, Francisco Zuniga, and Alejandro Zuniga, pick tobacco leaves on Chris Haskins' farm in Chatham, Va. Starting next month, America's remaining tobacco growers will be totally exposed to the laws of supply and demand. The very last buyout checks go out in October to about 425,000 tobacco farmers and landowners. They're the last holdovers from a price-support and quota system that had guaranteed minimum prices for most of the 20th century, sustaining a way of life that began 400 years ago in Virginia. (AP Photo/Johnny Clark)

tobacco farmers and landowners. They're the last holdovers from a price-support and quota system that had guaranteed minimum prices for most of the 20th century, sustaining a way of life that began 400 years ago in Virginia, when the leaf became the chief cash crop of the Jamestown colony. Cigarette makers will have paid \$10 billion to com-

pensate growers for surrendering their quotas. Many are producing more leaf than they have in years, and enjoying higher prices as well. "I'm not in this for nostalgia purposes," said Steven Barts, a fourth-generation tobacco farmer in Chatham, Virginia. "The day we're not making money is the day we're not doing

market. But those who remain in the business are thriving right now: Many are producing more leaf than they have in years, and enjoying higher prices as well. "I'm not in this for nostalgia purposes," said Steven Barts, a fourth-generation tobacco farmer in Chatham, Virginia. "The day we're not making money is the day we're not doing

time industry hub where tobacco fortunes in the 1800s built ornate Victorian mansions on a "Millionaire's Row." Danville still has a huge R.J. Reynolds smokestack in the middle of town, but it hasn't been used for years. Most of its warehouses are empty, and unemployment has soared since anti-smoking laws and health campaigns prompted a



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Ukraine lawmakers ratify landmark deal with Europe

LAURA MILLS
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine moved to resolve months of crisis Tuesday by strengthening ties to Europe and loosening some controls over the country's rebellious eastern regions where it has been fighting Russian-backed separatists.

The actions by lawmakers began to flesh out the emerging picture of a new Ukraine, where a determined pivot toward Europe has come at great cost: concessions to Russia and a war with rebels that killed more than 3,000 people and pushed the West's relations with Moscow to Cold War-era lows.

The measure deepening the economic and political ties with Europe was the issue that sparked the crisis last fall, when then-President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to shelve the deal in favor of closer ties with Russia sparked protests by hundreds of thousands.

Those demonstrations eventually drove him from power in February and led to the annexation of Crimea by Moscow and the rebellion in the east, where a shaky cease-fire began Sept. 5.

The deal lowers trade tariffs between Europe and Ukraine, requires Ukrainian goods to meet European regulatory standards and forces the Kiev government to undertake major political and economic reforms.

After parliament ratified the measure, lawmakers leapt to their feet to applaud and sing the Ukrainian national anthem. A live broadcast of the session was beamed to the European parliament.

President Petro Poroshenko called the vote a "first but

very decisive step" toward bringing Ukraine fully into the European Union.

He said the protesters who died in clashes with riot police in Kiev and the government troops killed by rebels in the east "have died not only for their motherland. They gave up their lives for us to take a dignified place among the European family."

"After World War II, not a single nation has paid such a high price for their right to be European," he said. "Can you tell me, who now after this will be brave enough to shut the doors to Europe in front of Ukraine?" Earlier Tuesday, the parliament also approved laws granting temporary self-rule to rebellious, pro-Russian regions in the east, as well as amnesty for many of those involved in the fighting.

The lawmakers took that action behind closed doors, in stark contrast to the patriotic fanfare of that vote on the European agreement. In his thunderous speech, Poroshenko did not mention those two measures, which are likely to generate far more controversy among Ukrainians. One of the laws calls for three years of self-rule in parts of eastern Ukraine and for local elections in November.

It grants concessions that were not offered in a peace plan that Poroshenko put forward three months ago when he became president, such as local oversight of court and prosecutor appointments and local control of police.

A separate bill calls for amnesty for those involved in the eastern fighting, although not for persons suspected or charged with crimes including murder,



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko shows the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement to lawmakers after its signing it in parliament in Kiev, Ukraine Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014. Ukraine's parliament ratified an agreement to deepen economic and political ties with the European Union on Tuesday, and passed legislation to grant autonomy to the rebellious east as part of a peace deal.

(AP Photo/Mykola Lazarenko)

sabotage, rape, kidnapping and terrorism. The law also does not grant amnesty to those who have tried to kill Ukrainian law enforcement officials and

servicemen — meaning that most of the separatists, who have waged war for five months on government forces, could not be eligible.

The decision to hold a closed-door session — an anomaly in the Ukrainian parliament — underscored the political challenges of the measures. □

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Syrian aircraft crashes in city held by IS group

DIAA HADID

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Syrian military plane crashed into the de facto capital of the Islamic State group on Tuesday, killing at least eight people, as thousands of its residents fled to nearby villages in anticipation of expected U.S. airstrikes against the militants, activists said.

There were conflicting reports about what caused the aircraft to slam into the northeastern city of Raqqa. The Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights said the plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire, while an activist based in the city said it may have experienced a technical failure.

A militant website published pictures of the purported wreckage of what it said was a Syrian warplane shot down by the Islamic State group in Raqqa.

In Damascus, Syrian rebels emerged from underground sewers to attack government troops at



Kurdish citizens who live in Lebanon hold Arabic placards that read, "To be Yazidi means love, accord and peace" and "No to killing the Yazidi sect by Daesh" during a demonstration against the Islamic State group, in front of the UN building, in downtown Beirut, Lebanon. An activist group and a Kurdish official say heavy clashes are taking place in northeastern Syria, with Kurdish fighters capturing about a dozen villages from Islamic militants. Kurdish fighters and members of the Islamic State group have been fighting each other for more than a year in northern Syria.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

dawn, one of very few such infiltration attempts to pass the boundaries of the capital since the conflict erupt-

ed three years ago against the rule of President Bashar Assad, activists said.

At least 18 fighters were

killed in the southern area of Midan after two groups of rebels crawled into the city through the tunnel

network to attack a Syrian government checkpoint, said Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The fighters belonged to several rebel brigades, including Syria's al-Qaida affiliate, the Nusra Front.

The fighting lasted for four hours, said an activist based east of Damascus who uses the name Mamoun Ayoubi. The activist said the fighters were trying to relieve pressure on rebels in eastern Damascus.

"This is not a normal situation, the fighting didn't halt from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m.," Ayoubi said over Skype.

There has been intense fighting around the eastern edge of Damascus in recent weeks. Rebels have been lobbing mortars into the capital, killing civilians, and clashing near the government-controlled neighborhood of Jaramana. Syrian government aircraft have bombed nearby towns, apparently in reprisal, killing at least dozens of civilians.

The rare clash in Damascus came after another failed rebel attempt Monday to infiltrate the capital. That attempt was reported by state-run media and an activist.

More than 190,000 people have been killed since the start in 2011 of Syria's conflict, which has transformed into a multilayered civil war.

The Islamic State group now controls a proto-state that stretches from northern Syria across much of northern and western Iraq. Raqqa, an ancient city on the Euphrates River with a prewar population of 500,000, serves as the extremists' stronghold in Syria.

□

Iraq parliament rejects interior, defense nominees

QASSIM ZAHRA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi lawmakers rejected Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's nominees Tuesday to lead the defense and interior ministries, leaving the crucial Cabinet posts unfilled as an emerging U.S.-led coalition intensifies its air campaign against Islamic State extremists who have seized a third of the country.

Control over the two powerful security portfolios has long been a source of tension among Iraq's feuding political factions, and the failure to agree on the candidates marked the latest in a series of delays in forming

a unified government that can confront the Islamic State extremist group.

The parliament session was held as the U.S. carried out an airstrike near Baghdad for the first time since launching an aerial campaign in early August, and French warplanes flying from the United Arab Emirates began reconnaissance missions over Iraq.

Al-Abadi, Iraq's new prime minister, put forward Sunni lawmaker Jaber al-Jabberi as his candidate for defense minister and Shiite lawmaker Riyadh Ghareeb as his pick for interior minister. Parliament, which could confirm the nomi-

nees with a simple majority, voted 118-117 against Ghareeb, and 131-108 against al-Jabberi.

"The failure of the parliament to agree on the candidates to fill the posts of interior and defense ministers shows clearly that the gap among and inside political groups are still huge and that each bloc is pursuing its own ambitions," said lawmaker Mutashar al-Samarie.

"I think that the posts of defense and interior minister should be kept away from sectarian power sharing. Iraq's problems in Iraq can be solved only by bringing independent and efficient

people to fill ministerial posts." Ahead of the vote, two lawmakers, Hussein al-Maliki and Mohammed Saadoun, told The Associated Press that the selection of Ghareeb met with some contention, mostly from the Shiite Badr Brigade, a powerful militia with close ties to neighboring Iran. Ghareeb failed to win approval by a single vote.

Hamid al-Mutlaq, a Sunni lawmaker, said that many in parliament felt the two nominees were "not qualified" to hold the key posts. "What we need are professional persons who have expertise in security and army issues," he said. □



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World Bank: Palestinian economy to shrink in '14

KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The Palestinian economy is expected to contract for the first time in seven years in 2014, the result of the recent Gaza war, continued Israeli and Egyptian restrictions on Palestinian trade and a drop in foreign aid, the World Bank said Tuesday. The bank issued the report ahead of a meeting next week of donor nations to the Palestinians on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

The bleak forecast is a "wake-up call to everyone" that the status quo, particularly in Gaza, cannot continue, Steen Lau Jorgensen, the bank's top official in the West Bank and Gaza, told The Associated Press.

The bank predicts the overall Palestinian economy will shrink by 4 percent this year, ending a period of growth driven largely by international aid that began in 2007. The downturn is expected to be sharpest in war-battered Gaza, with a projected drop of 15 percent, the bank said.

Gaza has been largely sealed off by Israel and Egypt since the Islamic militant Hamas seized the territory in 2007, wresting control from Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Since then, Israel and Hamas have engaged in three major rounds of conflict, including a 50-day war that ended in late August.

More than 2,100 Palestinians were killed in the latest war, about three-fourths of them civilians, and more than 17,000 homes were destroyed or severely damaged, according to the United Nations.

An international conference on raising funds for Gaza reconstruction is to be held Oct. 12 in Egypt, but the issue will also be the focus of a meeting next week in New York of representatives of key countries providing aid to the Palestinians. Palestinian officials estimate \$6 billion is needed for Gaza reconstruction.

The World Bank said a unified Palestinian government must run the West Bank and Gaza, and restrictions on trade and movement in and out of Gaza must be eased considerably if reconstruction is to be a success. Both seem remote possibilities.

Hamas and Abbas agreed earlier this year to form a unity government of experts in the West Bank and Gaza under Abbas' leadership. But key disputes remain unresolved and the government has not begun working. Hamas appears unwilling to hand over power in Gaza, including control over the security forces, even though it agreed to the formation of the unity government, largely in hopes that this would offer a way out of a deepening financial crisis. At the same time, it is unlikely Israel or Egypt will agree to ease restrictions on Gaza as long as Hamas remains the de facto ruler there. As part of the border blockade, Israel and Egypt bar virtually all exports from Gaza. Israel allows imports of most consumer goods, but severely restricts the influx of construction materials for fear they could be diverted by Hamas for military purposes, such as building attack tunnels. A network of such tunnels was uncovered and destroyed by Israel during the last Gaza war. □



Military prosecutors sit in the front row, while soldiers accused of an attack on their commander appear before a court martial in Abuja, Nigeria. Twelve soldiers fighting an Islamic insurgency in northeast Nigeria have been sentenced to death by firing squad for mutiny and attempted murder of their commanding officer. (AP Photo)

Nigeria: 12 troops sentenced to death

BASHIR ADIGUN
MICHELLE FAUL
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Twelve soldiers fighting an Islamic insurgency in northeast Nigeria have been sentenced to death by firing squad for mutiny and attempted murder of their commanding officer.

In a decision read early Tuesday by Brig. Gen. Chukwuemeka Okonkwo, the military tribunal found 12 soldiers guilty and five others innocent. One was sentenced to 28 days in jail with hard labor.

All the accused denied the charges. They all appeared to be in their 20s, and ranged in rank from private to corporal.

The revolt occurred after a convoy of soldiers was ordered to drive at night on a road frequently attacked by Boko Haram Islamic extremists. The soldiers initially refused, saying it was a suicide mission. But they eventually followed orders and were ambushed on May 13 by

insurgents on the road from the northeast town of Chibok. An unknown number were killed.

Chibok is the town from which more than 270 schoolgirls were kidnapped a month earlier. More than 50 escaped and the rest remain captive.

The failure to rescue the girls is a sign of the inability of Nigeria's military and government to contain a 5-year-old Islamic uprising that has killed thousands, with soldiers accused of gross human rights abuses in the process. Demoralized soldiers have told The Associated Press that they are outgunned by the insurgents, frequently are not paid in full, and feel abandoned on the battlefield, left without enough ammunition or food. Endemic corruption in Nigeria means millions of dollars budgeted for the fight against the extremists goes missing.

When the bodies of the ambushed soldiers were

brought to the barracks in the northeastern city of Maiduguri on May 14, the soldiers revolted, throwing stones at their commanding officer, firing into the air and then shooting at him. Several bullets hit the armor-plated vehicle in which he sought refuge. The officer, Maj. Gen. A. Mohammed, was unharmed.

The judgment describes an embarrassing scene where the second in command, Lt. Col. E. Azanda "has to dash for his dear life but discovered from where he was taking cover that soldiers eventually directed their shots" at Mohammed. It adds that Mohammed in his testimony said, "Thank God for the staff officer who rushed him into his car and the fact that the staff car is an armor-plated vehicle."

The judgment issued by the nine-member court martial panel said the soldiers accused their officers of cowardice and threatened to shoot them. □

Dutch ease off austerity, will spend on military

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Dutch government is presenting a budget for 2015 that for the first time in years will be focused less on financial austerity and more on security in light of international conflicts. In a day full of pomp and ceremony, King Willem Alexander rode in a golden

carriage to address both houses of parliament in the ceremonial 13th century "Hall of Knights" in The Hague. He began his annual address Tuesday with an homage to the victims of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which was shot down over eastern Ukraine in July, killing all 298 people aboard, most of them

Dutch citizens. He then announced an increase in defense spending. One in seven military jobs has been slashed since the 2008 financial crisis. "Protecting the Dutch State is not only an internal affair," the king said, reading aloud a speech written for him by Prime Minister Mark Rutte's Cabinet. "An active foreign policy, fo-

cused on peace and safety in countries and regions where these are under pressure, is in our interest." The budget is expected to also earmark extra funds for intelligence agencies to counter the threat from Dutch jihadists returning from Syria. The Dutch economy is a bright spot amid the mostly gloomy European land-

scape, with a recovery gathering strength on the back of growing exports. Economists were mostly critical of Dutch government policy in the post-2008 period, as the Cabinet piled spending cuts on top of a downturn and burst housing bubble in order to meet the eurozone's 3 percent budget deficit limit. □

China rig finds gas after Vietnam sea standoff

IAN MADER
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese exploration rig at the center of a tense maritime standoff with Vietnam earlier this year has made its first deep sea gas discovery in the politically volatile South China Sea, state media announced Tuesday. The discovery by China National Offshore Oil Corp. was made about a month after its rig withdrew in July from Vietnam's exclusive economic zone to far less-contested waters closer to China. The find by CNOOC's two-year-old, \$1 billion deep sea rig is about 150 kilometers south of China's southernmost island of Hainan. It's unclear whether the discovery will become commercially viable, but the announcement represents a significant step in China's ability to seek resources beneath the South China Sea. Petroleum reserves and fisheries are among the resources at stake in disputes over the sea, which is one



Workers lay cables on a new oil rig under construction for China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) in a shipyard in Qingdao in east China's Shandong province. The Chinese exploration rig at the center of a tense maritime standoff with Vietnam earlier this year has made its first deep sea gas discovery in the politically volatile South China Sea, state media announced Tuesday, Sept. 16. The discovery by CNOOC was made about a month after its rig withdrew in July from Vietnam's exclusive economic zone to far less-contested waters closer to China. (AP Photo)

of the world's busiest shipping routes and a patchwork of overlapping claims by governments including China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and

Taiwan. China claims virtually all of the South China Sea. The find was China's first without the participation of foreign partners that in

the past have included companies such as Chevron and BP, said Felix Tan, a Beijing-based analyst for energy and resources consultant Wood MacKenzie.

"This is the first discovery they've done all by themselves," Tan said in an interview. CNOOC has rapidly developed a deep-water exploration capability, he said.

"It's a bit premature to talk about the viability" of the field, however, Tan said. "There are a lot of tests to be done."

The gas field was discovered Aug. 18 at a depth of about 1,500 meters, CNOOC said on its website.

The depth is at the extreme cusp of what the industry considers a deep-water field, or those from 400 to 1,500 meters. Below 1,500 meters would be ultra-deep, where extraordinary pressures make the building of facilities extremely difficult.

Xinhua said the field's viability is still to be proven, but quoted a CNOOC manager, Xie Yuhong, as saying the well could be capable of producing up to 56.5 million cubic feet of gas per day, or about 9,400 barrels. □

Oligarch buys Russia's most popular social media

NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A media company owned by Kremlin-friendly oligarch Alisher Usmanov has splashed out \$1.5 billion to gain full control of Russia's most popular social network, VKontakte, bringing an end to a months-long dispute that saw the original investors sue each other in court. London-listed Mail.Ru Group said in a statement Tuesday that it now owns

the whole of VKontakte following its purchase of a 48 percent stake from investment fund United Capital Partners. Mail.Ru first invested in VKontakte in 2007 and since then has spent over \$2.1 billion accumulating stock. VKontakte is Russia's most popular social network and has over 270 million accounts. Usmanov, who is reputed to be worth \$18.6 billion, was named Russia's richest man

by the Russian Forbes magazine earlier this year. Mail.Ru's chief executive Dmitry Grishin lauded the deal, saying "the termination of all outstanding shareholder disputes will allow focus on the product and its further development." VKontakte's original investors parted ways in 2013 when two of them sold their combined 48 percent to United Capital Partners. VKontakte's founder Pavel Durov accused his former

partners of violating their previous agreement since they did not offer him or Mail.Ru an option to buy their shares. Durov sold his 12 percent stake in January which later ended up in Mail.Ru's hands. He fled Russia shortly after that and claimed that he sold his shares under pressure as the Russian intelligence agency FSB was trying to get VKontakte to disclose personal data of the users of a group linked

to the protest movement in Ukraine. As part of the deal, all pending lawsuits have been dropped. In a joint statement with Mail.Ru, Durov welcomed the decision of his former partners to drop their claims against his new project while he was dismissing his claims against them. Mail.Ru soared 3 percent at the London Stock Exchange on the news of the acquisition on Tuesday. □



....“MAGIE DE NOEL 2014”....

Renaissance Convention Center presents its end of the year theme



ORANJESTAD - It's that time of year again where Renaissance Convention Center introduces a special theme for their end of the year celebration. This year the Renaissance Aruba Resorts team selected "Magie de Noel," a French theme as their holiday season theme. Aruba is known as a great holiday destination and



it's that very special time of the year when we join with our friends, family, colleagues and loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions. The Renaissance Convention Center with its timeless elegance and most attentive personnel, is the perfect choice for every one's Christmas gathering. During this year's presentation all guests got the opportunity to see the

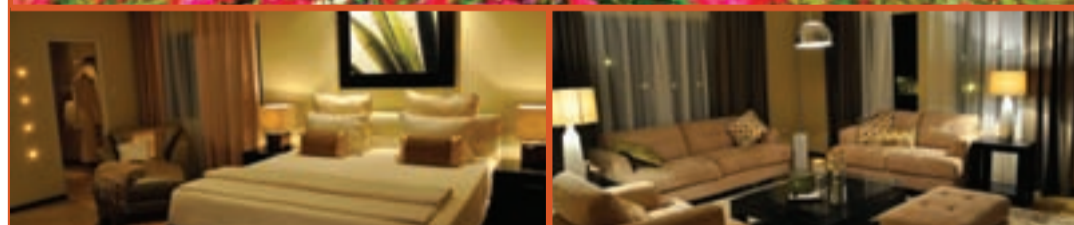
luxurious traditional up to the modern Christmas decoration presented by Renaissance Convention Center combined with a tremendous buffet that will be offered during the end of year season. Keeping in mind that every customer has its own taste, Renaissance has managed to compile a series of menus that surely will satisfy every special craving. In order to do so different buffet segments were created so

every guest can create/choose their own dish. Every menu offers its own variety of bread, soups, salads, dessert station and a wide-ranging list of beverage. For those who really love their 'holiday ham' (Christmas ham) the popular 'carving station' will offer a delicious 'ham di pasco'. Every menu is different and has its own specialty.

Continued on page 16

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PALM BEACH –Displaying solidarity and high spirits, housekeepers at the Playa Linda Beach Resort are making the most of International Housekeeping Week by strengthening ties, discovering new outlooks and generally enjoying an abundance of different activities. Housekeeping Week opened as a celebration to the resort's largest and most diverse department, which is among the hardest working at the heart of the house. Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd led the opening ceremony, with a show of support and appreciation also given by General Manager Steven Marra, Finance Director Ricardo Vrolijk, Director of Operations & Maintenance Peter van Grinsven and Director of Domestic Facilities Remo Kock. "This year, we are dedicating Housekeeping Week to all of our housekeepers. Each one of our housekeepers at the Playa Linda make a valuable contribution in keeping our resort a welcoming, clean, comfortable 'home away from home'", remarks Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd.

"We packed the schedule with events that both educate as well as show how much we appreciate each member of our department." The week kicked off with an early morning mass, followed by toasts to the entire team. Talks, given by Belquis Monroe and visiting housekeeping executive from Barbados, Mrs. Clark, provided words of motivation and wisdom. Fun-filled activities, including Bingo games and karaoke, will be topped off with an entire day of sun, relaxation and more shared merriment at De Palm Island. Resort management further showed their appreciation by treating housekeepers to a special meal, and by sponsoring different prizes to be given away throughout the week. Ingrid comments, "It is all an effort in providing an appropriate thank you for a job well done. ...This week is all about love – loving what you do and loving each other as family. 'I love Housekeeping' is not only our theme for Housekeeping Week, but also our motto to year-round." □

Alfred & Theresa Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently, Alfred & Theresa Russo were honored as Distinguished Visitors after returning to Aruba for more than 10 consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of

the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Marriott Surf Club. Theresa commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. Top reasons for returning



emoney at the Marriott Surf Club. Theresa commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. Top reasons for returning

provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island," the great weather and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, the white sand beaches

and the local food. On the pictures Mr. Croes from ATA together with Alfred & Theresa and also Marriott Surf Club Representative Jenny. □

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"MAGIE DE NOEL 2014"
Continued from page 13



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Anheuser-Busch, McDonald's voice NFL disapproval

MAE ANDERSON
The Associated Press

Major sponsors including Anheuser-Busch are adding to the chorus of disapproval over the National Football League's recent scandals, but the companies are stopping short of pulling advertising.

Anheuser-Busch said Tuesday that it has spoken with the NFL about concerns related to recent incidents that are sparking outcry from fans, including an investigation into how long the NFL and its commissioner Roger Goodell knew about a video that shows Baltimore Raven Ray Rice beating his then-fiancee; as well as the Minnesota Vikings' decision to let Adrian Peterson play while he faces an abuse charge for spanking his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch.

McDonald's, Visa and Campbell Soup Co. say they have also voiced similar concerns to the league. The statements come after Radisson hotels said Monday that it was pulling its sponsorship of the Minnesota Vikings. No other brands have pulled sponsorships from teams or the NFL.

But the statements from sponsors are becoming increasingly strongly worded.

Only last week, several big sponsors like GM and FedEx said they were monitoring the situation or watching it closely. Others like Anheuser-Busch and Procter & Gamble stayed silent.

This week, sponsors are making it clear they have made the NFL aware of their concerns. A-B used the harshest language, saying it was "disappointed and increasingly concerned."

Continued on Page 22

HEAVENLY!

Angels clinch playoff, magic number 3

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Matt Shoemaker throws against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press
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Hindsight: a Ryder Cup tradition, like no other

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Tom Watson didn't appear to be kicking himself.

On the day after Billy Horschel posted his 12th straight round in the 60s, won his second straight tournament against a world-class field and picked up an additional \$10 million bonus as the FedEx Cup champion, Watson was kicking back in his seat at a Kansas City Royals game. The 65-year-old Ryder Cup captain wore a Royals cap and a constant grin as he watched Omar Infante work the count to 2-0 in the bottom of the fifth inning.

These questions will follow Watson and his American team to Gleneagles next week for the Ryder Cup: Does he wish he could have Horschel on his team? Should the deadline to make his selections have been pushed back? It makes for an easy — if not lazy — narrative. Hindsight allows for that.

Horschel not only won the final two FedEx Cup playoff events, he beat the top qualifier from each Ryder Cup team — Bubba Watson at Cherry Hills and Rory McIlroy at East Lake. It was McIlroy who said at the Tour Championship, "I'm sure Tom Watson is kicking himself at the minute."

Adding to the debate is that Horschel was runner-up in the event that



Bill Horschel poses with both trophies after winning the Tour Championship golf tournament and The FedEx Cup, Sunday, Sept 14, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

preceded his back-to-back wins. Tiger Woods is the only other player to have two wins in a runner-up finish in the FedEx Cup. Then again, Horschel is not Tiger Woods.

Watson made his wild-card picks after the Deutsche Bank Championship, where Horschel was in prime position to force a playoff with Chris Kirk until he chunked a 6-iron so badly on the par-5 18th hole that it landed in the front of the hazard protecting the green. No one would have suggested Horschel as a pick the next day.

So why was the deadline set so early for the picks? Remember, for years the American captain made his selections the day after

the PGA Championship, six weeks before the Ryder Cup matches. Thanks to Paul Azinger, the U.S. captain now gets an extra three weeks to find the hot hands.

Why not extend it through the Tour Championship? If that's the case, why not wait until the final week to determine the entire team? This is not about uniforms, programs or any propaganda. This about a team, one that should know who is on the side with ample time to prepare leading to the matches. Four straight playoff events caused enough fatigue as it was.

Besides, would anyone be talking about an early deadline if McIlroy, Jim Furyk or Jason Day had won

the Tour Championship? And who's to say Watson would have taken Horschel even if he could have waited? Watson said he was looking for the hot hand and still passed over Kirk the day after his victory at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Watson was looking for experience.

He wanted Keegan Bradley and Webb Simpson all along. He would have preferred Brandt Snedeker as the third pick, except that Snedeker missed the cut at both playoff events. Hunter Mahan, who has played on two teams, won The Barclays and became an obvious selection, and then Simpson won out over Kirk.

As good as Horschel looks now, how can anyone project how he would have played in Scotland? Two years ago, Snedeker looked like a great captain's pick when he won the FedEx Cup. He went 1-2 at the Ryder Cup. Snedeker wasn't at his best that week.

He blocked a tee shot on the 18th hole that led to bogey in foursomes and cost the Americans at least a half point. On the final day, he bogeyed three straight holes against Paul Lawrie and suffered the worst defeat of any singles match.

Woods was a captain's pick in 2010. He was coming off the upheaval in his personal life, split with his swing coach and failed to qualify for the Tour Championship. He had gone seven straight tournaments without a top 10, and he failed to break 70 in 19 of his last 25 rounds. Woods went 3-1 at Celtic Manor, his best Ryder Cup performance.

Horschel will be cheering from home. His big finish will put even more scrutiny on the captain's picks than they already have. And that will lead to another round of hindsight, unless the Americans can find a way to win.

Maybe it was a good sign that the Royals rallied with two runs in the bottom of the ninth to win Monday night.

As for Infante? He struck out swinging.



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Foles leads Eagles to 30-27 win against Colts

MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- With Nick Foles at quarterback and LeSean McCoy and Darren Sproles in the backfield, the Philadelphia Eagles are never out of the game.

They proved it again on Monday night.

Foles threw a tying touchdown pass with 3:25 to go, and then set up Cody Parkey for the winning 36-yard field goal as time expired, lifting Philadelphia to a 30-27 win at the Indianapolis Colts.

Sproles had seven receptions for 152 yards to go along with a touchdown run as the Eagles (2-0) won their first game on the road for the sixth consecutive season. Philadelphia, which stormed back from a 17-0 halftime deficit to beat Jacksonville 34-17 in Week 1, also became the fourth team in the last 30 years to win consecutive games in which it trailed by 14 or more points in the 2nd half, according to STATS.

"He's just a special player," coach Chip Kelly said, praising Sproles for his role in the prime-time comeback. "The first day we had him it was, 'How many different ways can we find ways to get him the football?' He's just a dynamic football player."

Philadelphia's latest rally came against the defending AFC South champs, against a team that had never lost back-to-back regular-season games with Andrew Luck at quarterback. The Colts (0-2) led 17-6 at halftime, but committed two costly turnovers in the second half that the Eagles turned into 14 second-half points.



Philadelphia Eagles kicker Cody Parkey (1) kicks a 36-yard field goal out of the hold of Donnie Jones to win an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, in Indianapolis. Philadelphia defeated Indianapolis 30-27.

Foles was 21 of 37 for 331 yards with one touchdown - a 6-yard pass to Jeremy Maclin with 3:25 to go that tied it at 27. McCoy ran 20 times for 79 yards and scored Philadelphia's first touchdown of the night with 4:32 left in the third quarter.

The Eagles appeared to be in trouble when Indianapolis was driving with a 27-20 lead in the fourth. But Luck's short pass intended for T.Y. Hilton with 5:08 to go was intercepted by Malcolm Jenkins.

Two plays later, McCoy was stopped for a loss but LaRon Landry was called for a questionable horse-collar tackle. Sproles then took a swing pass for a 51-yard gain to the 6, and Foles found Maclin for the tying score.

"Without Sproles, we would be in some trouble, to be honest, we really would. That's why we're a team," McCoy said. "When guys

are struggling, he's picking everybody up. He's helping me out. I need to get my thing together. I don't feel like I'm playing to the level I should be playing at."

Luck, who was 20 of 34 for 172 yards with three TDs, walked into the postgame news conference for the second straight week and said he made a "stupid" decision when he threw the interception even though

replays also appeared to show Hilton had been grabbed by a defender. No call was made.

The calls weren't what the Colts were talking about, though.

Coach Chuck Pagano was more disturbed by the two turnovers, Luck's pick and Trent Richardson's fumble at his own 26-yard line, and a defense that couldn't stop the Eagles over the fi-

nal 20 minutes of the game. "The turnovers. Those were the killers in the second half," Pagano said. "You've got to finish games, put people away." The Eagles' potent offense started slow, managing just two field goals in the first half. They finished strong, tying it at 20 when Sproles managed to stay on his feet for a 19-yard run late in the third and again at 27 on the TD pass to Maclin. Luck drove the Colts right back down the field and hooked up with Ahmad Bradshaw for a tiebreaking score, but Indy couldn't close it out and the Eagles took advantage.

Indy looked as if it wouldn't need Luck's late-game heroics, thanks to a ground game that piled up 169 yards.

But the turnovers changed the whole complexion of things.

"We knew we had a field goal in the bag. Everybody saw what happened," Pagano said. "The last words before the play were 'Take care of the football.'"

Instead of taking a 10-point lead, McCoy got the Eagles' offense back on track and Sproles took care of the rest. □

Associated Press

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NFL, union close to finalizing new drug policy

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL and the players' union are close to finalizing the drug policy changes they tentatively agreed upon last week.

Union spokesman George Atallah told The Associated Press on Monday that the "drug policies are currently getting finalized." League and NFL Players Association attorneys and officials are reviewing the documents and could approve them this week.

One key element is how the changes affect players currently under suspension, including Denver receiver Wes Welker (four games) and Browns receiver Josh Gordon (entire season). Their bans would be reduced, and the union wants to see that happen before Week 3 games are played.

Welker was suspended for

amphetamine use in the offseason, but punishment for that is being switched from the performance enhancer policy to the substance abuse program — except for in-season violations.

Hours after the union voted Friday to accept the NFL proposal on changes that included HGH testing, the league said it was not a done deal. Further discussions have taken place since then.

Player representatives to the union also voted for changes to marijuana testing, classification for amphetamines, punishment for driving under the influence, and neutral arbitration on appeals.

Testing for human growth hormone was originally agreed upon in 2011, but the players have balked at the science in the testing and the appeals process for positive tests. If the pro-



In this Aug. 23, 2014, file photo, Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker (83) stretches prior to an NFL preseason football game against the Houston Texans in Denver.

Associated Press

posal they voted on Friday is put into action, testing would begin for this season. The player reps also approved an increase for the threshold for positive marijuana tests. Some players

have complained that the NFL threshold of 15 nanograms per milliliter is so low that anyone within the vicinity of people smoking marijuana could test positive. The threshold was in-

creased to 35 ng/ml in the league's proposal.

A two-game suspension would be issued for a player convicted of driving under the influence. But an NFL proposal to immediately suspend a player, owner, coach, team executive or league employee for a DUI arrest was rejected by the union.

The players approved arbitration for appeals under the substance abuse and the PED policies.

The NFL and NFL Players Association would hire between three and five arbitrators.

The league and the union also would retain independent investigators to review cases in which player confidentiality under the drug policy had been breached. Punishment for leaks could range up to \$500,000 and/or termination of a job. □

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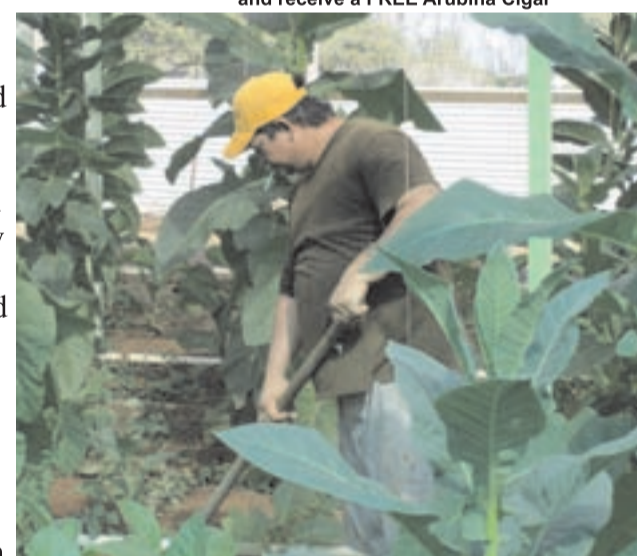
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AL Capsules

Angels beat Mariners, clinch playoff spot

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — The Los Angeles Angels became the first team in the major leagues to clinch a playoff spot on Monday after Matt Shoemaker allowed five hits into the eighth inning of an 8-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners. David Freese and Brennan Boesch homered for the big league-leading Angels (94-56), who reduced their magic number to three in the AL West race with their 11th victory in 12 games. Los Angeles is assured of at least a wild card berth in its first post-season since 2009. Albert Pujols left the game in the third inning with a left hamstring cramp after hitting a three-run double off Hisashi Iwakuma (14-8) for Los Angeles' first runs.

The Mariners (80-69) dropped two games behind Kansas City for the second AL wild card spot with their fifth loss in six games. Shoemaker (16-4), who turns 28 next weekend, improved his own franchise record for rookie victories with his ninth win in 11 appearances since July 26. **ORIOLES 5, BLUE JAYS 2** **BALTIMORE (AP)** — The Orioles moved to the brink of claiming their first American League East title in 17 years, using a resilient pitching performance by Chen Wei-yin to beat the Blue Jays. Baltimore can clinch the division crown with a win over Toronto on Tuesday. That would assure the Orioles their second playoff berth in three years



The Los Angeles Angels celebrate their team's 8-1 win against the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

following a run of 14 consecutive losing seasons. Chen (16-4) allowed two runs on nine hits over 5 2-3 innings to become the first Orioles lefty to win 16 games since Jimmy Key in 1997 — the year Baltimore last won the AL East. Ryan Flaherty homered and Adam Jones had three hits and an RBI as the Orioles

secured their eighth win in nine games. Blue Jays rookie Marcus Stroman (10-6) gave up five runs and nine hits in six innings. **TIGERS 8, TWINS 6** **MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Torii Hunter and Miguel Cabrera hit back-to-back home runs in the ninth inning to help the Detroit Tigers tighten their grip on the AL Cen-

tral by winning their fourth straight game. The Tigers blew a 6-0 lead they built by the fifth, but after Joe Mauer's second two-run single tied the game for the Twins in the eighth inning, Hunter hit the first pitch of the ninth from Casey Fien (5-6) into the bullpen behind left-center field.

Grand jury to weigh case of NASCAR's Tony Stewart

CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

A grand jury will decide whether NASCAR driver Tony Stewart will be charged in the August death of a fellow driver at a sprint car race in upstate New York, a prosecutor said Tuesday. Ontario County District Attorney Michael Tantillo said he made the decision to present the case to a grand jury after reviewing evidence collected by county sheriff's investigators. Tantillo could have determined there was not enough evidence to support charges and dropped the case, but instead announced his decision more than a month after Stewart's car struck and killed Kevin Ward Jr. at a dirt-track race on Aug. 9. In a statement, Stewart said he respects the time and effort authorities have spent "investigating this

tragic accident." "I look forward to this process being completed, and I will continue to provide my full cooperation," he said. Stewart spent three weeks in seclusion before returning for the final two races of the Sprint Cup season. He did not make the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship field, and finished 18th in the first Chase race Sunday at Chicagoland. Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero spent weeks investigating the accident at the small track in Canandaigua, several times saying investigators did not have any evidence to support criminal intent by Stewart. Ward had spun while racing alongside Stewart and then the 20-year-old climbed out of his car and walked down the track, waving his arms in an apparent attempt to confront the 43-year-old NASCAR veteran.

"Upon my review of all of the information contained in the entire investigation," Tantillo said, "I have made the determination that it would be appropriate to submit the evidence to the grand jury for their determination as to what action should be taken in this matter." He said the law prevented him from saying when the case would be scheduled or who would be called as witnesses.

The sheriff asked in the days after Ward's death for spectators to turn over photos and videos of the crash as investigators worked to reconstruct the accident. Among the things being looked at were the dim lighting, how muddy it was and whether Ward's dark firesuit played a role in his death, given the conditions. After Ward's death, NAS-



In this Sept. 13, 2014, file photo, NASCAR driver Tony Stewart (14) looks out from his garage during a practice for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Ill.

Associated Press

CAR announced a rule that prohibits drivers from climbing out of a crashed or disabled vehicle - unless it is on fire - until safety personnel arrive. Stewart, who has 48 career Cup wins in 542 starts, is one of the biggest stars in the garage. He has long been one of

the most proficient drivers in racing, winning in every kind of series, from sprint cars to the elite Sprint Cup Series. He has for years taken part in little races in nondescript towns because he loves the thrill of the high horsepower, lightweight cars skidding around the dirt.

Nats beat Braves to close in on NL East title

ATLANTA (AP) — Stephen Strasburg threw seven scoreless innings to end a long run of frustration against Atlanta as the Nationals beat the struggling Braves on to move to the verge of the National League East title.

The Nationals can clinch the division by beating the defending champion Braves on Tuesday night. Strasburg (12-11) ended a streak of eight winless starts against Atlanta since 2012. Wilson Ramos hit his 11th homer in the fifth.

The Braves (75-75) have lost four straight to fall to .500 for the first time since they were 1-1. They trail Pittsburgh by 4 1-2 games for the second NL wild-card spot.

Ervin Santana (14-9) allowed two runs and only three hits.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, GIANTS 2

PHOENIX (AP) — The Giants lost their third consecutive game when Mark Trumbo hit a grand slam to lead the Diamondbacks to a victory.

Trumbo had five RBIs, and Wade Miley (8-11) bounced back from his shortest outing of the sea-



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg (37) delivers in the fifthinning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

son by pitching seven innings of one-run ball.

San Francisco's NL West chances took a hit with consecutive losses to the Dodgers over the weekend, but the Giants are still in control of the wild-card race, beginning the day with a three-game lead over Pittsburgh for the top spot.

Trumbo hit his ninth homer off Ryan Vogelsong (8-11) in the third inning and a run-scoring single off Juan Gutierrez in the seventh. Trumbo has six hits and nine RBIs the past three games.

DODGERS 11, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP) — Pinch-hitter Justin Turner ignited an eight-run sixth inning with a tiebreaking two-run double as the surging Dodgers beat the Rockies.

Los Angeles showed no signs of a letdown after a big series win in San Francisco, where the Dodgers took two of three to extend their lead in the NL West. Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer, and Adrian Gonzalez had three RBIs. Yasiel Puig showed more signs of getting back on track with two hits.

Jamey Wright (5-4) earned the win. The Dodgers broke out in the sixth against Christian Bergman (2-4) and two relievers.

PADRES 1, PHILLIES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Andrew Cashner pitched a two-hitter for his third career shut-out as the Padres scored on Cody Asche's fielding error in the second inning to beat the Phillies.

Casher (4-7) allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked one in winning for the second straight time after going winless since April 16 against Colorado.

Jerome Williams (3-2) limited the Padres to an unearned run, three hits and two walks in 7 2-3 innings.

CUBS 1, REDS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Anthony Rizzo capped his return to the Cubs lineup with a walkoff home run in the ninth inning that gave Chicago a win over the Reds. Rizzo had missed the last 18 games due to a back problem but drove a pitch from Pedro Villarreal (0-1) over the wall in center field. Rizzo's homer was his 31st of the season and gave Hector Rondon (4-4) the win after he tossed a scoreless inning of relief.

MARLINS 6, METS 5

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacob deGrom struck out his first eight batters to match a major league record before the Miami Marlins finally started making contact and rallied late for a victory over the Mets.

Adeiny Hechavarria hit a two-run single and Jeff Mathis put Miami in front with an RBI single that capped a three-run eighth inning. DeGrom whiffed eight consecutive Marlins to begin the game, tying a mark set by Jim Deshaies of the Houston Astros against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sept. 23, 1986.

Casey McGehee got the comeback started with a one-out single and Hechavarria tied it 5-all with a two-run single off rookie Jeurys Familia (2-5).

With the bases loaded, Sam Dyson (3-1) threw a called third strike past Dilson Herrera to end the seventh.

In other NL games it was Miami 6, N.Y. Mets 5; Washington 4, Atlanta 2; Chicago Cubs 1, Cincinnati 0; L.A. Dodgers 11, Colorado 3; Arizona 6, San Francisco 2; and San Diego 1, Philadelphia 0.

NFL disapproval

Continued from Page 17

The NFL responded to the sponsors' statements late Tuesday with a short statement of its own:

"We understand. We are taking action and there will be much more to come," the organization said.

As the NFL and various team executives navigate scandal, much is at stake: The money companies pay each year to be official sponsors —not including advertising and promotions—is worth about \$1.07 billion for the league and all of its teams, according to sponsorship consultancy IEG. The NFL is a coveted partner for brands since an average of 17.4 million people tune in during a regular season NFL game, about 65 percent men and 35 percent women, according to Nielsen.



This July 14, 2008 file photo shows an Anheuser-Busch logo behind a glass case in the brewery's tour center in St. Louis. Major sponsors including Anheuser-Busch and Visa added to the chorus of disapproval over the National Football League recent actions but are stopping short of pulling advertising, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014.

Associated Press

Experts say that brands are taking their cues by how upset consumers seem.

"It takes something pretty dramatic before those league sponsors who have invested in some cases hundreds of millions in their relationship with NFL seek

to end their partnership or do something like that," said Jim Andrews, senior vice president of content strategy at IEG. "They follow the fans. They will be constantly monitoring and testing the waters to see what the fan reaction to

this is."For Anheuser-Busch, those sponsorship fees alone are worth an estimated \$50 million. The beer maker said Tuesday that it is "disappointed and increasingly concerned" by the recent incident.

"We are not yet satisfied with the league's handling of behaviors that so clearly go against our own company culture and moral code," the company said in a statement. "We have shared our concerns and expectations with the league."

Also on Tuesday, McDonald's issued a similar statement, saying "we have questions surrounding these evolving situations and are closely monitoring as the appropriate parties investigate these matters." The company added it has "communicated our concerns to the league, and we expect it to take strong and necessary actions to

address these issues."

On Monday, Visa said domestic violence in any form is unacceptable and has no place in the NFL and society.

"As a long-standing sponsor we have spoken with the NFL about our concerns regarding recent events, and reinforced the critical importance that they address these issues with great seriousness."

Campbell Soup said it had also spoken to the NFL about the Ray Rice video investigation. "Upon completion of the investigation, we expect the NFL to take appropriate action," Campbell Soup Co. said in a statement. "We have shared our views with the NFL."

Also on Tuesday, Procter & Gamble responded to a fake Covergirl NFL ad that went viral on social media. The ad depicted a woman with a black eye. □

Self-driving cars now need a permit in California

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Computer-driven cars have been testing their skills on California roads for more than four years — but until now, the Department of Motor Vehicles wasn't sure just how many were rolling around. That changed Tuesday, when the agency required self-driving cars to be registered and issued testing permits that let three companies dispatch 29 vehicles onto freeways and into neighborhoods — with a human behind the wheel in case the onboard equipment makes a bad decision.

These may be the cars of the future, but for now they represent a tiny fraction of California's approximately 32 million registered vehicles. Google's souped-up Lexus SUVs are the biggest fleet, with 25 vehicles. Mercedes and the Volkswagen Group of America have two vehicles each, said Bernard Soriano, the DMV official overseeing the state's "autonomous vehicle" regulation-writing process. A "handful" of other companies are applying for permits, he said.

The permits formally regulate testing that already was underway. Google alone is closing in on 1 million miles. The technology giant has bet heavily on

the vehicles, which navigate using sophisticated sensors and detailed maps. Finally, government rules are catching up.

In 2012, the California Legislature directed the DMV to regulate the emerging technology.

Rules that the agency first proposed in January went into effect Tuesday. Among them:

— Test drivers must have a sparkling driving record, complete a training regimen and enroll in a program that informs their employer if they get in an accident or are busted for driving under the influence off hours.

— Companies must report to the state any accidents, as well as how many times their vehicles unexpectedly disengage from self-driving mode, whether due to a failure of the technology or because the human driver takes over in an emergency.

They also must have insurance or other coverage to pay for property or personal injury claims of up to \$5 million.

California passed its law after Nevada and Florida and before Michigan. The federal government has not acted, and national regulations appear to be years away.

It's impossible to know the total number of self-driving



In this May 13, 2014 photo, a Google self-driving car goes on a test drive near the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

cars being tested on public roads because, unlike California and Nevada, Michigan does not require special permits to test self-driving cars on public roads.

Toyota, Chrysler, Ford and General Motors are "all running around here with some form of autonomous vehicle," said James Fackler, assistant administrator for the Michigan Department of State, which registers motor vehicles.

Carmakers do not need a permit — manufacturer's license plates are enough, and those plates can also be used on future models or other kinds of experimental cars.

Nevada has issued several test vehicle licenses to Google, VW and the auto supplier Continental, according to its Department of Motor Vehicles.

In Florida, only Audi has tested self-driving technol-

ogy and no testing is ongoing, according to a spokesman for the state's motor vehicles department.

With California's testing rules in effect, the DMV is drafting regulations that will govern self-driving cars once they are ready for the general public.

Those rules, which the DMV must finish by year's end, will untie knotty issues such as whether a person needs to be in the vehicle at all. □



In this Sept. 9, 2014 file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook, left, greets Bono from the band U2 after they preformed at the end of the Apple event on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in Cupertino, Calif. Apple unveiled a new Apple Watch, the iPhone 6 and Apple Pay and U2 offered iTunes customers a free download of their latest album, "Songs of Innocence."

Apple releases tool to remove free U2 album

NEW YORK (AP) — Some iPhone users are not happy that U2's new album, "Songs of Innocence," was automatically added to their iTunes music library, free of charge. In response, Apple has released a special tool that lets people remove the album from their collections.

U2 played at an Apple event last week that included the unveiling of the iPhone maker's new smartwatch and updated iPhone models. In a surprise move, the Irish rock band performed at the event

and put out its 11-song release.

Apple CEO Tim Cook announced that the new album would be given to the company's 500 million iTunes users. The release showed up in users' iTunes music libraries. The company said Monday that 33 million iTunes account holders have accessed the free album. But some iTunes users took to Twitter to complain and ask how to remove it. While it was already possible to delete the album, Apple's tool makes it possible in one step. □

Stocks end higher on health care, utilities

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market rose Tuesday as investors waited to find out when the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates. Stocks flitted between gains and losses through most of morning, then turned broadly higher in the afternoon on gains in health care and utility stocks. "The economy continues to improve in the U.S., and there's still an accommodative Fed," said Brad Sorensen, director of market

Jonathan D. Corpina, senior managing partner at Meridian Equity Partners, said there was lot of talk among traders during the day about what the Fed might do, but little new insight. "There's a lot of chatter, but nothing that's real," he said from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Until the closing minutes, the Dow Jones industrial average looked like it would rise to a record, but prices faltered at the end. Still the blue-chip index

was offset by higher prices for transportation and shipping services, the Labor Department said. Besides the Fed press conference tomorrow, investors are awaiting a referendum on Scottish independence on Thursday. The British pound has turned volatile in recent weeks as opinion polls narrowed ahead of the vote. A "yes" decision could trigger turmoil in the market as investors ponder the economic and financial fallout. Among stocks making big



Trader Patrick Forbes, left, and Gregory Rowe work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market rose Tuesday as investors waited to find out when the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

and sector research at the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "We think the bull market has further to run." The Fed has held a key short-term interest rates close to zero for more than five years, making it cheaper for companies and consumers to borrow and boosting corporate profits. The stock market has surged as a result. But investors widely expect the Fed to start raising rates in the middle of next year. Investors may get a better sense of how soon after the central bank concludes a two-day meeting Wednesday. Fed Chair Janet Yellen could discuss the bank's rate plans, as well as the outlook for employment and inflation, in a press conference in the afternoon.

ended up gaining 100.83, its first triple-digit close since August 18. The Dow closed at 17,131.97, a gain of 0.6 percent. The Nasdaq composite rose 33.86 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,552.76. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 14.85 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,998.98. Among the 10 sectors of the S&P 500, health care stocks gained the most, up 1.3 percent. Utilities and energy stocks followed, with a 1.2 percent gain each. Energy stocks were pushed higher by rising oil prices. Exxon Mobil increased 1.2 percent. In economic news, a measure of prices that U.S. producers receive for their goods and services was unchanged in August, the latest sign that inflation is in check. A drop in wholesale gas and food prices

moves: — Humana Inc. rose \$4.71 to \$132.37, a gain 4 percent. The health insurer said it plans to repurchase as much as \$2 billion of its own shares, double what it had previously planned. The stock has climbed 28 percent this year. — Sears Holdings fell \$3.15, or 9 percent, to \$30.37. The company is taking out a \$400 million short-term loan from a hedge fund run by CEO Edward Lampert, the retail company's biggest owner. Sears has struggled against rivals like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in recent years. In metals trading, gold rose \$1.60, or 0.1 percent, to \$1,236.70 an ounce. Silver gained 10.1 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$18.72 an ounce. Copper rose 8 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$3.17 a pound. □



A chef walks in the headquarter campus of Alibaba Group in Hangzhou in eastern China's Zhejiang province. American investors are clamoring to buy a stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, which is launching what may prove the biggest initial public stock offering ever.

(AP Photo)

Alibaba risk: China's rise May leave out investors

PAUL WISEMAN
MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) —

American investors are clamoring to buy a stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, which is launching what may prove the biggest initial public stock offering ever. But history is stacked against them. China's explosive economic rise has delivered virtually nothing to most stock investors. When Chinese companies have listed stocks on American markets, their shares have lost an average 1 percent a year for the next three years, compared with an average 7 percent annual gain for other U.S. IPOs, according to research by Jay Ritter, a finance professor at the University of Florida. Most Chinese stocks trade in China, of course. And those stocks have burned investors, too. From 1993 to 2013, when China's economy grew nearly seven-fold from No. 9 to No. 2 in the world, stocks on Chinese markets returned a cumulative total of just 7.9 percent — even if shareholders had reinvested dividends. Over the same time, U.S. stocks jumped 555 percent, German stocks 458 percent and Spanish stocks more than 1,000 percent, according to Credit Suisse. "It's probably one of the biggest disconnects in the

history of stock markets," says Nicholas Lardy, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Chinese stock gains didn't even keep up with inflation, says Elroy Dimson, emeritus professor of finance at the London Business School, who helped compile the Credit Suisse numbers. Adjusted for inflation, Chinese stocks lost 3.8 percent a year from 1993 to 2013. It's entirely possible, of course, that Alibaba will produce outsize investment returns over time. The company has become a hugely popular shopping magnet on the strength of China's surging growth. Its regulatory filing indicates that Alibaba draws 188 million monthly visitors on mobile devices — a tantalizing target for advertisers. The company's financial results have been stellar: Alibaba said its revenue jumped 46 percent to \$2.54 billion in the three months that ended June 30 and that it earned \$1.2 billion excluding a one-time gain. Potential investors have swarmed to Alibaba's presentations in advance of the initial offering. Demand has grown so feverish that Alibaba on Monday said it planned to raise the offering price from the \$60 to \$66 a share it had earlier set to \$66 to \$68. □

Mall mashup: Washington Prime to buy Glimcher

NEW YORK (AP) — Washington Prime Group Inc., which spun off from mall operator Simon Property Group earlier this year, said Tuesday that it is buying rival Glimcher Realty Trust. The cash-and-stock deal is worth about \$2.06 billion. The combined company will own 119 malls and shopping centers around

the country. After the deal closes, which is expected to happen in the first quarter of 2015, the company will change its name to WP Glimcher. Washington Prime said it will pay \$14.20 in cash and stock for each share of Glimcher, a 34 percent premium from its closing price of \$10.59 Monday.

As part of the deal, Glimcher will sell two shopping centers to Simon Property Group Inc. for \$1.09 billion. The two shopping centers being sold are Jersey Gardens in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and University Park Village in Fort Worth, Texas. Washington Prime said the total deal with Glimcher is worth about \$4.3 billion, in-

cluding debt. The new company will keep Washington Prime's ticker symbol "WPG," which trades on the New York Stock Exchange. WP Glimcher will be based at Glimcher's headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. Washington Prime is based in Bethesda, Maryland. In May, Simon Property

spun off Washington Prime, which operates strip malls and smaller enclosed malls, so it can focus on bigger malls and premium outlets. Shares of Washington Prime Group Inc. fell \$1.22, or 6.6 percent, to close at \$17.24 Tuesday. Glimcher shares jumped \$3.16, or 29.8 percent, to \$13.75. □

US CEOs less optimistic about hiring, spending

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Optimism among chief executives at the largest U.S. companies fell in the July-September quarter after reaching a two-year high in the previous quarter. The Business Roundtable said Tuesday that its CEO outlook index fell to 86.4 in the third quarter, down from 95.4 in the April-June period. Fewer CEOs expect to hire in the next six months: Just 34 percent plan to add jobs, down from 43 percent. And only 39 percent plan to boost their capital spending, down from 44 percent. Nearly three-quarters of the chief executives expect higher sales, the same as in the second quarter. Randall Stephenson, CEO of AT&T Inc. and chairman of the Roundtable, blamed the decline of the index on Congress' failure to extend temporary tax breaks that encourage research and development and investment spending. The survey was conduct-

ed from Aug. 11 to Aug. 29, and 135 of the Business Roundtable's 200 CEOs responded. The index's fall "reflects a

Overseas conflicts in the Ukraine and Middle East have also weighed on executives' optimism. Chief executives were en-

they are more hesitant about spending on machinery and other capital equipment because it is unclear whether Congress

moving offshore to avoid U.S. taxes through a process known as "inversion" has been prompted by the nation's relatively high corporate tax rate. Business groups have been pushing the Obama administration and Congress to cut the rate as part of broader corporate tax reform, though little progress has been made so far. "To the extent that U.S. businesses anticipated meaningful tax reform, these inversions would taper off very rapidly," Stephenson said during a conference call with reporters. Most economic data suggest the economy is growing, though only at a modest pace. Hiring slowed in August as employers added just 142,000 jobs, the fewest this year. The unemployment rate fell to 6.1 percent from 6.2 percent. The economy expanded at a 4.2 percent annual rate in the second quarter, a healthy rebound after it shrank 2.1 percent in the first three months. Still, most economists forecast that growth will be just 2 percent for all of this year. □



Jessica Pimentel, of Hollywood, Fla., fills out a job application during a job fair in Sunrise, Fla. Optimism among chief executives at the largest U.S. companies fell in the July-September quarter after reaching a two-year high in the previous quarter. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

slow growth economy that ebbs and flows and stops and starts and is underperforming previous recoveries," Stephenson said.

couraged in the second quarter by the expectation that Congress would extend the tax breaks, Stephenson said. But now

will be able to extend them before the end of the year. Stephenson also said that a rash of U.S. companies

Lilly, AstraZeneca team up on Alzheimer's drug

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Eli Lilly and Co. plans to pay up to \$500 million to fellow drugmaker AstraZeneca as part of a collaboration to develop and sell a potential Alzheimer's disease treatment that is in the early stages of clinical testing. Lilly said Tuesday it will make an initial milestone payment of \$50 million to AstraZeneca, which will handle manufacturing

of the drug. Indianapolis-based Lilly will lead clinical development of the potential treatment, labeled AZD3293, while working with researchers from London-based AstraZeneca. The companies then will share global profits or losses if the drug is approved. Alzheimer's is a fatal disease and the most common form of dementia, a term for brain disorders that

affect memory, judgment and other mental functions. Many Alzheimer's patients typically live four to eight years after diagnosis, as the disease gradually erodes their memory and ability to think or perform simple tasks. Drugmakers have tried and failed for years to develop successful treatments for Alzheimer's. AZD3293 attempts to pre-

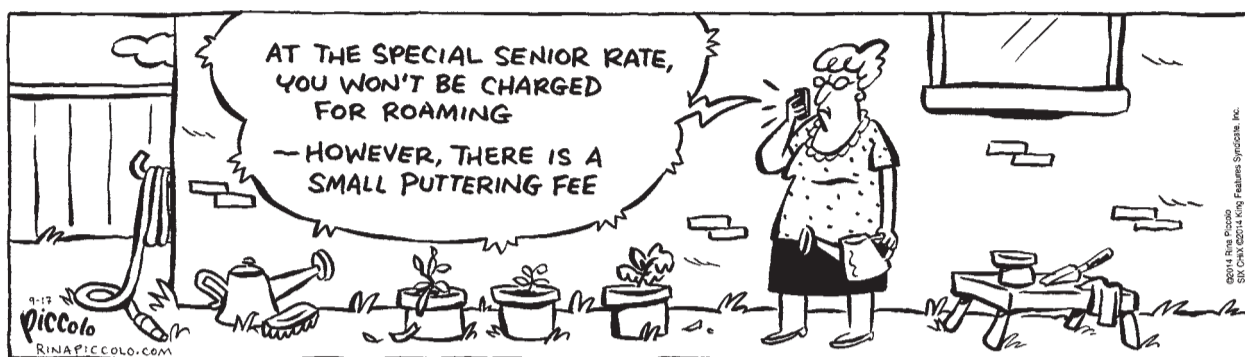
vent the formation of amyloid plaque in the brain and eventually slow the progression of the disease. The drug has finished an initial phase of testing in humans and is likely several years away from the regulatory review it must pass before reaching the market. Lilly also is developing solanezumab, which is in late-stage testing as a pos-

sible treatment for mild cases of Alzheimer's. Indianapolis-based Lilly will take a charge of 3 cents per share to its third-quarter earnings for the initial payment in the collaboration. Shares of Lilly rose 7 cents to \$65.26 in morning trading Tuesday, while U.S.-traded shares of AstraZeneca fell 46 cents to \$73.32 and broader indexes rose slightly. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



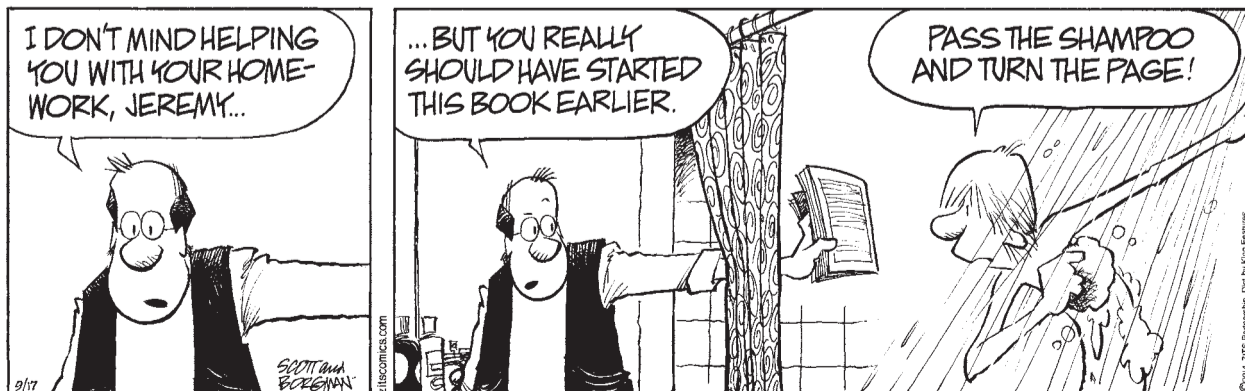
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2	5	9			
		7				9		
	5	9				1	6	
8								7
1								5
	7	5	3		8	6	4	
			7	3				
		1				5		
		6	8	9	5	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★

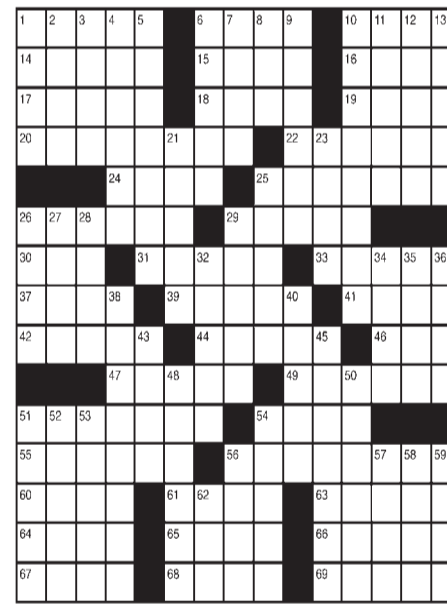
9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	5	2	6	3	1	4	7	8	9
	9	8	1	7	6	2	5	3	4
	4	3	7	9	5	8	1	2	6
	6	4	2	1	7	5	8	9	3
	3	7	9	4	8	6	2	1	5
	8	1	5	2	9	3	4	6	7
	7	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	8
	2	6	8	5	4	9	3	7	1
	1	9	4	8	3	7	6	5	2

ACROSS

- 1 Obama's VP
6 "___ the night before Christmas..."
10 Chances
14 Wipe away
15 Sworn promise
16 Fishing worms, for example
17 Main artery
18 Sequoia or spruce
19 Certain
20 Not warranted
22 Retaliate
24 Abound
25 Reached a high point
26 Once more
29 Desert refuge
30 Pigeon's cry
31 Stretch of land
33 Full of foliage
37 Pitfall
39 Theater employee
41 Urgent
42 Play a ukulele
44 Watery part of the blood
46 Fellows
47 Certain berth
49 Hoses off
51 Disease kids are vaccinated against
54 Rational
55 Fleet of ships
56 Deli meats
60 Outer garment
61 Tearful request
63 Purse part, usually
64 Shaping tool
65 Request for more slop
66 Bird of prey
67 Garden intruder
68 Brooklyn team
69 Cornered
- DOWN
1 Boyfriend
2 Element whose symbol is Fe
3 Issue a challenge to
4 Grand home
5 Closest
6 Tribal pole
7 Beaver
8 Cleaver's dad
9 Gobbled up
9 Large scissors
10 ___ with; unable to stop thinking about
11 Lessen the courage of
12 Funeral song
13 Spirited horse
21 India's first Prime Minister
23 Bride's headwear
25 Provide food for a banquet
26 Plays a role
27 ___ Lauderdale, Florida
28 Lion's cry
29 Yellow shade
32 Donkeys
34 Shoots carefully
35 On the house



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/17/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

CONE	HATED	SPED
OVER	AROMA	HAVE
DEER	REPUBLICAN	
AND	CANS	ANTS
	LHASA	PIE
SKEINS	NARROW	
ONSET	TOOLS	PRO
LOSS	PRIDE	SPIN
OWL	SEALS	LOOSE
SYDNEY	ROASTS	
	OAK	MAORI
STORK	DANK	TWO
HOUSEBOUND	DIED	
OGRE	AUDIO	DOLE
EASY	STEAM	ENDS

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9/17/14

- 36 Strong urges
38 Throbbled
40 Of the countryside
43 Shape; form
45 Attitude
48 Gun or knife
50 Thick juice
51 Colorful parrot
52 Wear away
53 Astonish
54 ___ up; absorbs
56 Penny
57 Encourage
58 "A ___ of Two Cities"
59 Ran quickly
62 Tell a fib

US House panel: Safety agency mishandled massive GM recall

JOAN LOWY
TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The agency responsible for safety on U.S. roads was years late in detecting a deadly problem with General Motors cars and lacks the expertise to oversee increasingly complex vehicles, congressional Republicans charged in a report Tuesday.

The report by a House committee's Republican majority raised serious questions about the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's ability to keep the public safe, and came as the Senate convened a hearing on the safety agency's shortcomings.

Safety regulators should have discovered GM's faulty ignition switches seven years before the company recalled 2.6 million cars to fix the deadly problem, the report concluded.

It also said the agency didn't understand how air bags worked, lacked accountability and failed to share information internally. "As vehicle functions and safety systems become increasingly complex and interconnected, NHTSA needs to keep pace with these rapid advancements in technology," the report said. "As evidenced by the GM recall, this may be a greater challenge than even NHTSA understands."

At least 19 people died in crashes caused by the faulty switches in GM small cars like the Chevrolet Cobalt. The company acknowledged knowing about the problem for at least a decade, but it didn't recall the cars until February. The delays left the problem on the roads, causing numerous crashes that resulted in deaths and injuries. Lawmakers have said they expect the death toll to rise to near 100.

NHTSA already has fined GM the maximum \$35 million for failing to report information on the switches, but the committee found that many of the bureaucratic snafus that plagued GM also are present at NHTSA.

"While NHTSA now com-

plaints about GM's switch, it seems NHTSA was asleep at the switch too," Rep. Tim Murphy, a Republican, said in a statement.

NHTSA blamed GM for the delays and said many problems cited by the committee were fixed in a 2011 review. GM, the agency said, hid information by fixing switches without changing the part numbers, causing the number of complaints about the switches to decline and skewing data. "GM withheld information and hindered NHTSA's efforts every step of the way," NHTSA said.

The agency said it has a strong record of pursuing defects, influencing almost 1,300 recalls covering 95 million vehicles and parts in the last decade. NHTSA also said it's using sophisticated tools to search for defects and it has an improved complaint-tracking process. It's also discussing with Congress the need for more investigators. NHTSA is working on how it can better understand how vehicle systems interact and more quickly discern safety defects, David Friedman, the agency's acting administrator, said in prepared testimony for the Senate commerce subcommittee. Friedman took over when administrator David Strickland resigned two months before the GM recalls began.

A key criticism in the House report was that NHTSA defect investigators didn't understand until earlier this year after GM began recalling cars that an ignition switch defect that could cause the vehicle's power to shut off or move to the "accessory" position while the car was moving could also prevent the airbag's from deploying. □

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Scientists' colossal squid exam a kraken good show

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — It was a calm morning in Antarctica's remote Ross Sea, during the season when the sun never sets, when Capt. John Bennett and his crew hauled up a creature with tentacles like fire hoses and eyes like dinner plates from a mile below the surface.

A colossal squid: 350 kilograms (770 pounds), as long as a minibus and one of the sea's most elusive species.

It had been frozen for eight months until Tuesday, when scientists in New Zealand got a long-anticipated chance to thaw out the animal and inspect it — once they used a forklift to maneuver it into a tank. The squid is a female, and its eight arms are each well over a meter (3.3 feet) long. Its two tentacles would have been perhaps double that length if they had not been damaged. Kat Bolstad, a squid scientist from the Auckland University of Technology who was leading a team examining the creature, described it as "very big, very beautiful."



In this Dec. 2013 photo provided by a crew member of the boat San Aspring of New Zealand fishing company Sanford, Capt. John Bennett shows a colossal squid he and his crew caught on the boat in Antarctica's remote Ross Sea.

"This is essentially an intact specimen, which is almost an unparalleled opportunity for us to examine," she said. "This is a spectacular opportunity." Many people around the world agreed: About 142,000 people from 180 countries watched stream-

ing footage of the squid examination on the Internet. Colossal squid sometimes inhabit the world of fiction and imagination, but have rarely been seen in daylight. Remarkably, Bennett and his crew on the San Aspiring toothfish boat have caught two of them. Their

first, hauled in seven years ago, is on display in New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa. Bennett said there was so much excitement about his previous catch, he thought he had better save the latest one for research. "It was partly alive, it was

still hanging onto the fish," Bennett recalls. "Just a big bulk in the water. They're huge, and the mantle's all filled with water. It's quite an awesome sight."

Susan Waugh, a senior curator at Te Papa, said scientists hope to find out more about where the creature fits in the food chain, how much genetic variation there is among different squid types, and basic facts about how the colossal squid lives and dies.

She said scientists plan to further assess the condition of the squid before determining whether to preserve it for public display.

Bolstad said it's possible that ancient sightings of the species gave rise to tales of the kraken, or giant sea-monster squid. She said sperm whales often eat colossal squid and are known to play with their food, and sailors may have mistaken that for epic battles. "On the other hand, we don't really know what the grog rations were like at that time at sea, either," she said. "So it may be that we've got a bit of a fisherman's story going on there, too." □

Associated Press

Research drones launched into Hurricane Edouard

JENNIFER KAY

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — U.S. government scientists are launching winged drones into Hurricane Edouard, hoping to collect data that could help forecasters understand what makes some storms strengthen into monsters while others fade away. This week's launches mark the first time that

unmanned aircraft have been dispatched from "hurricane hunter" planes flying through Atlantic tropical storms.

Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration say the 3-foot (0.9-meter), 7-pound (3.2-kilogram) drones are designed to spend hours slowly descending through storms, particularly in the



In this April 29, 2014 file photo, Joe Cione, who studies how storms interact with the ocean at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Research Division in Miami, holds a drone he hopes to use this hurricane season for research.

Associated Press

lowest parts of a hurricane where planes can't fly. NOAA got a few drones this year to test during the

peak of hurricane season, thanks to post-Hurricane Sandy federal funding. Edouard is the first major

hurricane of the six-month Atlantic storm season, but it remained no threat to land Tuesday. □



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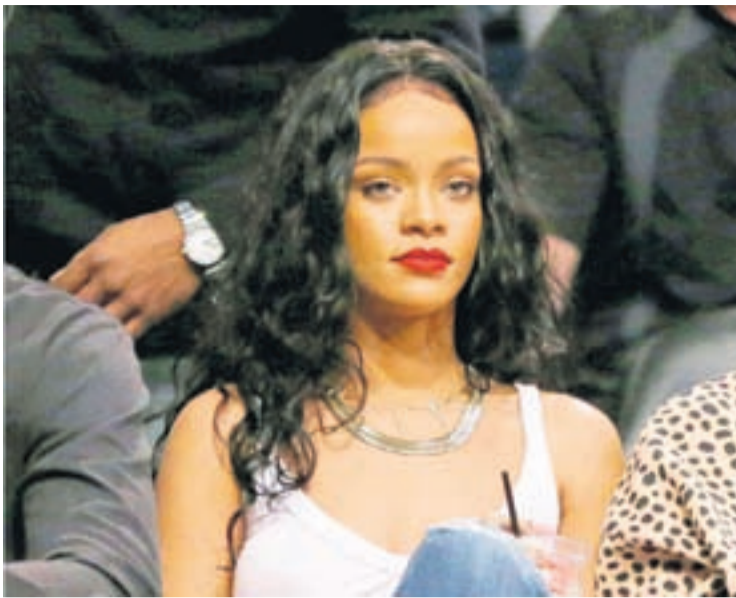
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This April 25, 2014 file photo shows singer Rihanna watching Game 3 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series between the Brooklyn Nets and the Toronto Raptors in New York.

Associated Press

CBS: Rihanna out of NFL telecast

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS and Rihanna are splitting up, more fallout from the Ray Rice domestic violence incident and the turmoil it has caused for the NFL.

The network said Tuesday it was permanently editing a song featuring Rihanna's voice out of its Thursday night NFL telecasts — after the singer issued a profane tweet about it.

A portion of Jay-Z's "Run This Town" featuring Rihanna was cut from last Thursday's Baltimore Ravens vs. Pittsburgh Steelers game because CBS was covering the controversy over Ravens running back Rice's assault of his then-fiancee. CBS planned to use the song Thursday and for the rest of the season, but Rihanna tweeted, "CBS you pulled my song last week, now you wanna slide it back in this Thursday? ... Y'all are sad for penalizing me for this." She added an expletive.

CBS issued a statement saying that it was "moving in a different direction" with different theme music. Meanwhile, Jay-Z's Roc Nation Company, which manages Rihanna and others, said that it had made the decision not to grant the song's usage. Roc Nation said it felt CBS misled the public when it announced

the song's use for its telecasts, giving the impression Rihanna recorded specific music for the project. The company said it never saw or approved the news release issued by CBS.

The news release, issued Sept. 2, stated: "CBS Sports and NFL Network will open each game of Thursday Night Football in 2014 with Jay-Z's Grammy Award-winning song 'Run This Town,' featuring megastar Rihanna." It said the song would be paired with a narration by Don Cheadle. The song was one of a handful of elements CBS cut out of its inaugural Thursday night football telecast. At the time, CBS Sports President Sean McManus said Rihanna's own history as a victim of domestic violence was one part of the decision but not the overriding one. The song was to be featured in all six of the Thursday night games CBS was broadcasting this fall, plus eight more on the NFL network.

A spokesperson for Rihanna had no immediate comment on the CBS decision or her client's tweet.

The decision means a significant loss of weekly exposure for Rihanna's work: more than 10 million people watched the opening of the telecast last Thursday, according to the Nielsen company. □

Leonardo DiCaprio named U.N. Messenger of Peace

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Leonardo DiCaprio's movie roles have made him an international star, but his long and little-known commitment to preserving the global environment has led to his new role — as a U.N. Messenger of Peace. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on Tuesday that the 39-year-old American actor will join 11 other prominent world figures who advocate on behalf of the U.N. as Messengers of Peace including Stevie Wonder, Michael Douglas, George Clooney, Brazilian author Paulo Coelho, primatologist Jane Goodall and conductor Daniel Barenboim.

Ban told a news conference that the DiCaprio "is not just one of the world's leading actors" but he has "a longstanding commitment to environmental causes."

He said DiCaprio will focus his U.N. role on climate change issues.

"His global stardom is the perfect match for this global challenge," the secretary-general told a news conference.

Ban said DiCaprio's first act as a Messenger of Peace



In this Dec. 15, 2013 file photo, American actor Leonardo DiCaprio poses for a portrait, in New York.

Associated Press

will be to address the climate summit he is holding next Tuesday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting, which 120 world leaders are expected to attend.

Ban said the aim is to promote commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions and pave the way for a global climate agreement in 2015.

DiCaprio established a foundation in 1998 with a mission to promote the Earth's last wild places and build a more harmonious relationship be-

tween humanity and the natural world. According to the U.N., the foundation through grants, media projects and public campaigns and appearances by DiCaprio, has brought attention and funds to three areas — protecting biodiversity, conservation of oceans and forests, and climate change.

DiCaprio said in a statement that he is honored to be a Messenger of Peace and support the secretary-general "in his efforts to address one of the most important issues we face as a global community." □

Seinfeld says Rivers was to be in series

NEW YORK (AP) — Jerry Seinfeld says that Joan Rivers was to join him for an episode of his digital series, "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," until he got a call saying she had to postpone because she was undergoing a medical procedure.

Rivers went into cardiac arrest following a throat

procedure in New York on Aug. 28 and died on Sept. 4. Seinfeld, in a post on his show's Facebook page on Monday, said Rivers had



In this May 14, 2014 file photo, TV personality Joan Rivers attends A Celebration of Barbara Walters in New York.

Associated Press

been thrilled to be included.

He wrote that he wanted to show another side of Rivers, and to tell her how

much he admired her accomplishments, especially later in her career. Seinfeld called her one of the greats and said, "I'll miss her." □

Women in politics: Gillibrand and Davis memoirs

BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — “Forgetting to Be Afraid: A Memoir” (Penguin/Blue Rider Press), by Wendy Davis, and “Off the Sidelines: Raise Your Voice, Change the World” (Ballantine Books), by Kirsten Gillibrand

Two prominent women in politics, New Yorker Kirsten Gillibrand, who replaced Hillary Clinton in the U.S. Senate, and Texas gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis, who shot to fame in pink sneakers with an abortion-rights filibuster, are out this month with memoirs.

“Forgetting to Be Afraid” chronicles Davis’ hard-scrabble journey from teen mom in a trailer park to Harvard Law School. Gillibrand’s “Off the Sidelines” is a “Lean In”-style exhortation about women in a man’s world.

Both books made headlines. Davis’ revealed that she terminated two pregnancies for medical reasons. Gillibrand’s describes unnamed male colleagues in Washington making inappropriate remarks about her appearance.

But readers may find other aspects of the books equally compelling. Working moms will nod in recognition as Gillibrand describes raising two little boys, running from day care to the Senate to home, juggling sick kids, legislation and making dinner. Americans who have struggled with poverty will relate to Davis’



The book cover image released by Ballantine Books (left) shows “Off the Sidelines: Raise Your Voice, Change the World,” by Kirsten Gillibrand; and the book cover image released by Blue Rider Press (right) shows “Forgetting to Be Afraid,” by Wendy Davis.



Associated Press

trips to the pawn shop and her tears of gratitude over a found \$20 bill.

“Forgetting to Be Afraid” is the more dramatic book. Davis’ grandparents were itinerant farmers whose 13 children slept head to foot in two beds and subsisted on water-and-flour biscuits. Her father moved the family five times before Davis was in third grade, then left for good, throwing them into poverty. Her mother worked nights and weekends; Davis took odd jobs to help. By 19, she was a pregnant college dropout. She’s at her visceral best describing that raw time: “If I had a flat tire, there was never an extra twenty dollars to fix it.”

Eventually, Davis takes paralegal classes, gets her degree, marries a successful older man, has a

second child and goes to Harvard Law School. She commutes between Harvard and Texas, juggling marriage, child-rearing and school. She’s elected to the Fort Worth City Council and Texas state Senate, where her famous filibuster took place last year. Under filibuster rules, she couldn’t eat, drink or sit; she wore a catheter, and for hours told stories from women who’d had abortions. But she didn’t reveal her own experiences ending an ectopic pregnancy and a pregnancy in which the fetus had a fatal brain abnormality. She feared a “dramatically personal confession ... would overshadow the events of the day.”

As a child, Davis took dictation from a grandparent who’d suffered a stroke, teaching her “how impor-

tant it is to speak up for those who can’t speak for themselves.” Whether voters will let her apply that lesson as governor remains to be seen. Davis, the Democrat, is trailing behind Republican Greg Abbott, but she’s narrowed the gap.

Gillibrand grew up middle-class in Albany, New York. Both parents were lawyers; her grandmother was a leader in the local Democratic machine. Gillibrand went to Dartmouth, then UCLA Law School, before joining a New York corporate law firm, where her long hours earned her \$200,000 a year. But a speech by Hillary Clinton made her yearn for a more meaningful career.

What does it take for a young lawyer with political ambitions to get noticed? Forget Gillibrand’s chirpy, Oprah-esque advice (“Wake up thirty minutes earlier in the morning and go for a walk ... so you can face the day from a stronger, healthier, happier place”). Instead, learn by example: Gillibrand joins boards and political groups. She seeks out mentors, writes checks, raises money and milks moments on reception lines, asking Hillary Clinton at one event how she can help. Clinton asks her to host a fundraiser; Gillibrand throws “the best event” ever.

Gillibrand tries and fails to get hired by federal prosecutors, then tells Andrew Cuomo — then U.S. Housing Secretary — at another event that she can’t

“break in” to public service. Within days, she’s working in Washington. She later beats a four-term Republican congressman in a GOP district and is appointed U.S. senator when Hillary Clinton becomes secretary of state.

Gillibrand’s accounts of comments by men in Washington have made waves. One told her: “Good thing you’re working out, because you wouldn’t want to get porky!” Another said: “Don’t lose too much weight now. I like my girls chubby!” She told People magazine the men were “well into their 60s, 70s or 80s” and didn’t know their comments were “inappropriate.” Some reporters said they didn’t believe her stories and demanded she name the offenders. But her defenders countered that if she named names, she’d never get support from male senators on issues she’s fought for like reforming how sexual assaults are handled in the military. “Off the Sidelines” sometimes feels like a campaign commercial, detailing Gillibrand’s advocacy for 9/11 first-responders and other issues.

But working mothers will find much to relate to. If you’ve ever had a child beg you not to go to work; if you’ve ever arrived at day care 15 minutes late; if you’ve ever missed work to stay home with a sick kid, there are passages in Gillibrand’s book that will move you to tears. □

Live Whitney Houston CD/DVD to be released Nov. 10

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A CD/DVD featuring Whitney Houston’s first public performance — and one of her last in 2009 — will be released Nov. 10.

“Whitney Houston Live: Her Greatest Performances” is the pop singer’s first live album. Her mentor, Clive Davis, said the album will showcase her legacy.

“(It) shows why she is at the absolute historic top rank up there with Aretha Franklin and Barbra Streisand as



In this May 14, 2014 file photo, TV personality Joan Rivers attends A Celebration of Barbra Walters in New York. Associated Press

the greatest singers of our lifetime,” he said in a recent interview. “It really has been a labor of love on my part to go through every concert performance, every TV appearance.” Houston was found dead in a hotel room in Beverly Hills, California, in 2012. She was 48.

Davis produced the album, which includes Houston’s 1983 performance on “The Merv Griffin Show,” where she sang “Home” from “The Wiz,” and a 2009 performance on “The Oprah

Winfrey Show.” Some of the songs are ones that Houston performed live, but never recorded.

Davis, chief creative officer of Sony Music Entertainment, said it was hard going through videos to select the final track listing. Pat Houston, Whitney’s sister-in-law and head of the singer’s estate, didn’t find the process too difficult.

“It’s such an honor even after she’s gone to be able to honor her legacy and to continue working on her music and just making sure

the fans all over the world have a continued moment of her greatness,” she said in an interview.

Davis said he found the CD/DVD a success when he played it for his guests at a recent dinner party.

“It just couldn’t have been a better entertainment and emotional experience because the bittersweet part of it is the greater you see she was,” he said. “How tragic that she went so young, so that’s the bittersweet part of it.” □

Throw the Bums Out



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON - When Roger Goodell was growing up here, he had the best possible example of moral leadership. His father, a moderate New York Republican appointed by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to Bobby Kennedy's Senate seat after the assassination, risked his career to come out against the Vietnam War.

"We should not be engaged in a land war 10,000 miles away," he wrote to Rockefeller.

Egged on by Henry Kissinger, Richard Nixon never blanched at putting his political viability ahead of the lives of kids on the battlefield, but Charles Goodell would not do that. In September 1969, the senator tried to force the president to withdraw all the troops faster by introducing a bill, S-3000, withholding money. He could have waited until after his election the following year, thus garnering Nixon's support, but he was that rare creature that seems to have vanished from the Washington landscape: a profile in courage. His moral stance brought down the immoral Furies: Nixon, Agnew and Kissinger, who suggested Goodell was treasonous. As his five sons, including 11-year-old Roger, watched in dismay, the vengeful Nixon White House schemed against Goodell's reelection, and, at 44, his political career was kaput.

The two legacies from his dad, Bryan Curtis wrote in *Grantland* last year, could well be "a measure of his dad's idealism, his contrarianism, his stubbornness. And I bet we'd also find a kind of defense mechanism that develops when you see your dad destroyed on a public stage. An instinct that makes you think, I won't let that happen to me."

Now the NFL commissioner, he proudly keeps a framed copy of the original S-3000 on the wall of his office on Park Avenue and told *The Times'* George Vecsey in 2010 that it "was a valuable lesson to me."

But what was the lesson? Goodell is acting more like Nixon, the man who covered up crimes, than like his father, who sacrificed his career to save lives.

As ESPN's Keith Olbermann nicely summed it up, "Mr. Goodell is an enabler of men who beat women," and he must resign.

Goodell likes to present himself as a law-and-order sheriff bent on integrity, whose motto is: "Protect the shield." But that doesn't seem to include protecting the victims of violence or American Indians who see the Washington team's name as a slur. As with concussions, the league covered up until

the public forced its hand.

The commissioner, who has been a sanctimonious judge for eight years, suddenly got lenient. His claim that it was "ambiguous about what actually happened" in the Atlantic City casino elevator between Ray Rice and his then-fiancée, Janay Palmer, during the Valentine's Day massacre was risible to start with. What did he think happened? The man was dragging out an unconscious woman like a sack of mulch.

Goodell's credibility took another hit on Thursday, when Don Van Natta Jr. wrote on ESPN.com that four sources close to Rice had said that the player had admitted to the commissioner during a disciplinary meeting in his office on June 16 that he had hit his girlfriend in the face and knocked her out. This makes sense since Goodell is known for being intolerant of lies, and since Rice probably assumed the commissioner had seen the video. Yet Goodell only suspended him for two games, two less than if he'd been caught taking Adderall.

It has been suggested that the NFL give players purple gear (oddly the color of Rice's Ravens team) next month in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. But they may as well just wear green. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that the greed league even asked entertainers to pay for the privilege of playing the Super Bowl halftime show.

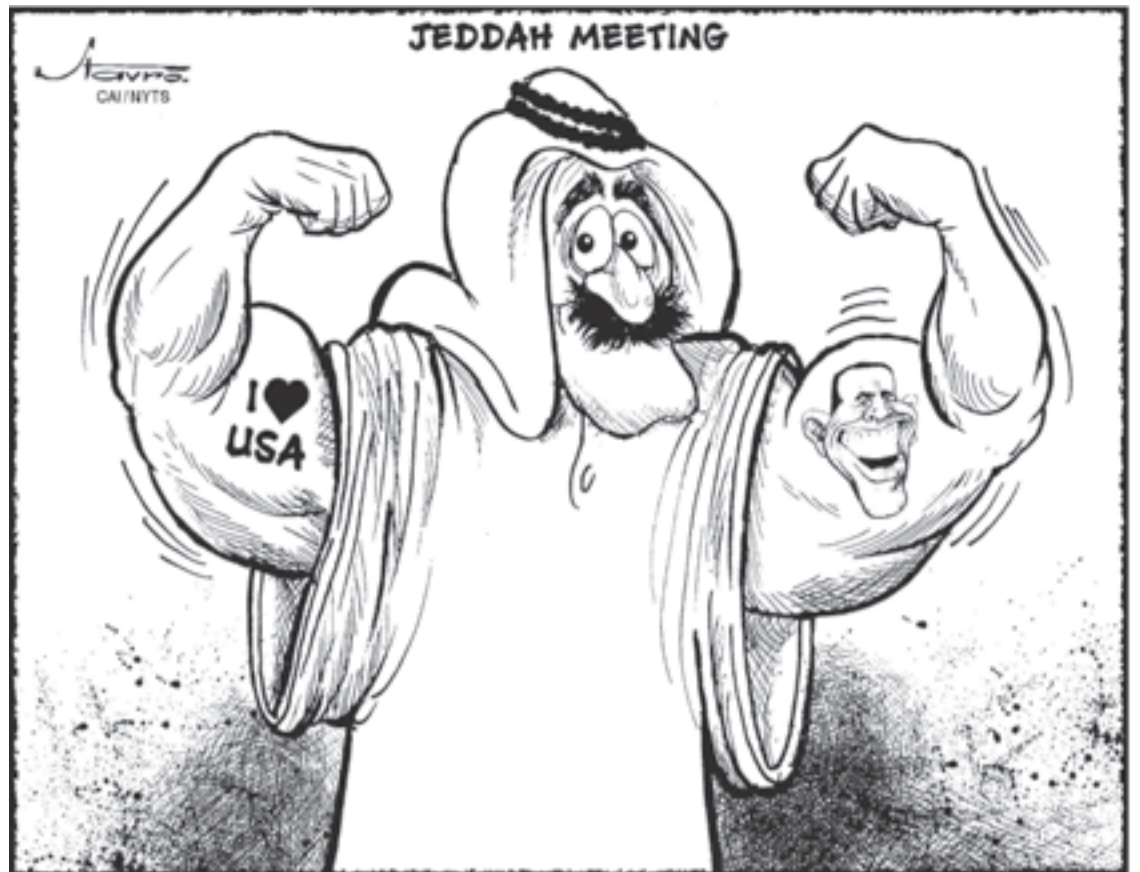
Goodell was hired by the owners to be a grow-the-pie guy, which means shielding the throw-the-punch guy. Since he became commissioner in 2006, the league's 32 gridiron fiefdoms have increased in value by \$10.9 billion, according to *Forbes*. He wants to bring in \$25 billion annually by 2027. Goodell himself is making more than \$44 million.

Owners shrug off moral turpitude because when they pay a lot of money for a player, they don't want him sitting out games, even if he's been accused of a crime, because every game they lose means less merchandise and fewer ticket sales. So, as the NFL continues its perp walk - on Friday, one of its best running backs, the Minnesota Vikings star Adrian Peterson, was indicted on charges of abusing his 4-year-old son in Texas - Goodell looks the other way.

They think they can get away with anything now, even with women being almost 50 percent of their fan base. And maybe they can. Twenty million people tuned in to watch the Ravens play Thursday night - even without the irony of prerecorded Rihanna's performance kicking things off - and the papers were filled with sickening pictures of women proudly wearing Rice's No. 27 jersey.

The last sports commissioner who didn't kowtow to owners may have been Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who banned Shoeless Joe and the Black Sox players from baseball for life even though they were acquitted in 1921 and went out with the jury to eat to celebrate. "Regardless of the verdict of juries," Landis said, "baseball is competent to protect itself against crooks, both inside and outside the game."

If only. □



Candidates Playing Possum



GAIL COLLINS

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Election season! Tension mounts! Longtime public servants are aware that the least little slip and they could be out the door. Forced, like ousted House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, to labor in the sweatshops of the investment banking industry.

With \$1.4 million in signing bonuses. Do you think that's why he quit the House early, people? I totally believed he just wanted to give his successor a head start.

I digress. We're talking today about democracy. And debates. Candidates should all feel obliged to debate their opponents. It's a sign of respect to the public. Even for incumbents who are so safe that they could get caught having an assignation with an armadillo and still get 60 percent of the vote.

Our fixation on debates goes back to that Illinois Senate race when Abraham Lincoln faced off seven times against Stephen Douglas. Their battles were so electric that Lincoln published transcripts in a book, which his fans scooped up eagerly. Voters today may wonder why their Senate debates can't be like Lincoln-Douglas. Senate candidates today may wonder why their audiences can't be like the ones in 1858, when people sat enthralled while one man spoke for 60 minutes, followed by a 90-minute re-

sponse and then a final 30-minute comeback.

This year, control of the Senate hinges on the outcome of a handful of states. Almost all of them are going to involve debates, and I can pretty much guarantee none of them will later be published as best-selling books.

Several have already degenerated into debates about the debates. Former Minnesota Sen. Norm Coleman, a Republican, said his successor, Democrat Al Franken, gave the state a "big middle corn dog" when Franken declined the traditional debate at the Minnesota State Fair. That state fair can be a pretty rowdy venue. I know you think all Minnesotans are calm and well-behaved, but really, give them enough deep-fried foods and they can get carried away.

Franken, who did spend seven days campaigning at the fair, posing for selfies and eating what his campaign spokesperson said was a large quantity of roasted Minnesota sweet corn, has done one debate and is scheduled for three more, so I don't think he can be accused of dissing his constituents.

However, it's sort of sad when the old political traditions fall by the wayside. This year in Florida, the gubernatorial candidates failed to show up for the annual Wausau Possum Festival, which is usually a must-show event. Perhaps Gov. Rick Scott and Democrat Charlie Crist don't like possums. Maybe they were averse to the custom of politicians walking onstage and dangling the animals by their tails. Really, it's the kind of thing that can come back to bite you.

We have mixed feelings about the possums. However, we do want debates. Even if we are planning to totally ignore them, we want our candidates out there.

And, in most of the major races, they're ready to go. Although in Michigan, the Republican Senate candidate, Terri Lynn Land, is pursuing a kind of stealth strategy, in which she seems to become less and less visible as the campaign

goes on. Her opponent, Rep. Gary Peters, appeared on the date of a previously scheduled debate this week, sharing the stage with an empty chair before an enthusiastic crowd of more than 30 people.

"This is not the ideal format," he understated.

The empty chair is the traditional prop in these circumstances. However in Alabama, where Gov. Robert Bentley is resisting debates, Democrat Parker Griffith has been toting around an inflatable duck. I have fond memories of a New York City mayoral candidate waving a rubber chicken that was supposed to be the absent Rudy Giuliani.

Giuliani's defense was that he didn't want to appear in debates that included distracting third-party candidates. This is a longstanding argument. Do you want to watch the Democrat and Republican go head-to-head? Or do you want to be inclusive? And, if so, how far are you prepared to go? Right now in North Carolina, the Senate hopefuls include a former town councilman who is best known for having submitted his resignation letter in Klingon.

"I've been in many debates that I think were a disservice to democracy," Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York said during this year's gubernatorial primary.

He was perhaps referring to his run for governor in 2010, when he wound up on stage with six other candidates, including a woman whose claim to fame was running a prostitution ring and the nominee of the Rent Is Too Damn High Party.

There are some problems with Cuomo's analysis, only one of which is that he was using it as an excuse to avoid any debates whatsoever during the primary year. While the thing with the madam and the rent guy was pretty weird, that was possibly the most memorable gubernatorial debate in state history.

And, of course, we appreciated that everybody had the decency to show up. □

Surfer's Travels Accompanied by Whales, Wipeouts

STEPHANIE GILMORE

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When I was 17 years old, I started entering Association of Surfing Professionals events as a wild-card competitor. To say flying was a grind would be an understatement. You basically wind up going across the globe to surf in hopes that you're good enough to qualify for an event. To be honest, I never wanted to look at a boarding pass again.

By the time I was 19, I won my first world title. So far, I have won five world titles on the ASP Women's World Championship Tour, and now flying is second nature. My business trips are for competitions, promotions or some type of event for Roxy, a clothing company, which is my sponsor. Basically, when I'm not in the water, I'm on a plane. To complain about flying would just be wrong. My business trips involve doing

something that many people only dream about, and I have seen more places in the world than most people will see in their lifetimes. I'm a good flier and was only a little scared once when I was traveling with six other female surfers and a couple of photographers to find a remote wave in Indonesia.

The biggest hassle is traveling with surfboards. I usually bring four to six surfboards with me when I go to events. Almost every airline seems to have an issue with surfboards, and the excess baggage bill is always quite large. Sometimes, no matter what class you're flying, an airline may charge you per board, even though you might have a few in one bag. Boards actually don't weigh that much, and my board bag will usually be lighter than my suitcase with clothes and other items. Imagine if you're a golfer and were charged

per club.

I think it was the Dalai Lama who said that old friends pass away, and new friends appear, and old days pass, and new days arrive, and the important thing is, make everything meaningful. I always try to think about that when I'm on a plane, and someone sits next to me. I think it's important to talk to people because you'll never know what you'll learn, but sometimes I'm so tired, I just sleep.

When I do talk to seatmates, it's clear that almost everyone is curious about surfing. They may have tried it or want to try it, and everyone has a lot of questions, especially about the lifestyle. Surfers are a tight-knit group. We all know each other, and we share a love of the ocean. Even when we're not competing and get a chance to go on holiday, most of us wind up right back at the

beach.

A few people have wanted to know what it's like to have a wipeout. It's not fun. I always say just imagine being thrown in a washing machine, and you'll get an idea of a wipeout. Once you've experienced a wipeout, airplane turbulence won't bother you. People also want to know if I'm worried about sharks. Yes, I am, but it's not stopping me.

Recently in California, a rescue boat came out to let us know a whale was coming at us. At first I thought they were going to tell us a shark was checking us out, and I got a real sick feeling. But it was a whale, and it was just swimming between us and the shore. It actually came to the surface and exhaled through its blowhole, which was just amazing.

I have had dolphins surf with me, and it's the coolest thing because I'm pretty sure they are challeng-

ing me. Trust me, if it really was a competition, they'd always win.

Q: How often do you fly for business?

A: Generally about five times a month - or more.

Q: What's your least favorite airport?

A: Los Angeles International. It's just always a mess, and it's always so difficult to get to your terminal.

Q: Of all the places you've been, what's the best?

A: Since I'm a professional gypsy, I love every place I go. But Australia, my home, is very special to me. I love the people, the food, the water. There isn't much not to like about Australia.

Q: What's your secret airport vice?

A: I buy celebrity gossip magazines. I can get them on my phone, but there's really a guilty pleasure in buying the paper version. And I probably will have a bloody mary while I'm reading those magazines. □



Top professional surfer Stephanie Gilmore rides the waves in Mexico. As a surfer, Gilmore flies often and says the biggest hassle is dealing with the four to six surfboards she takes to events, often making for very large excess baggage bill, even though they weigh less than her suitcase.

(Morgan Maassen via The New York Times)